



Miscellaneous Notes

Taken on

Staten Island, N. Y.

by

Arthur Hollick.

beginning Oct. 29th 1870.

Ending Dec. 24th 1887.



Oct. 29"

First day's shooting with my gun. — Shot 15 birds. —
Great numbers of blue birds out. — Snow birds are already here. —

Nov. 4"

Shot 3 robins and 5 more miscellaneous birds. —
Myrtle birds seem to be very common. —

Nov. 25"

Shot 4 robins, 3 purple crested finches, 2 white winged crossbills, a crested tit & several other miscellaneous birds. — The crossbills and finches are in pretty big flocks — the former feeding upon the seeds of the pine cones & berries of the cedar, while the latter seem to find something in the old birch catkins and are very busy on the slender branches of the birch trees. —

Dec. 28"

Plenty of blue birds are still here — they do not seem to intend leaving this winter at all. — The yellow birds are very busy, in small flocks, especially in tall tree tops. — They seem to be eating buds or seeds and drop scales down constantly. —

Dec. 31"

First deep snow of the winter. — Saw a flock of white snow-birds flying over — the first of the season. —

Jan. 7"

Went shooting, mostly around Goodhue's place. Large flocks of cedar birds out. Shot 27. Killed 9 at one shot. - Brought "Major" out with me as an experiment, but the dog evidently didn't take to the gun & soon turned tail for home. -

Feb. 11"

Went shooting with Jack Rimmer. - Large flocks of white snow birds on our hill, wherever the ground is bare. - Jack succeeded in getting a flock in a raking position on a picket fence & knocked 9 at a shot. -

Mch. 10"

Weather very warm & pleasant. - Saw first butterfly. -

Mch. 25"

Had a fine day in the woods with Jack Rimmer and Will. Smith. - Went back of Clove Lake. - Beautiful weather. Found first flowers of the season - Liverwort - near the cave. - Sap runs freely from the birch trees. - Saw a quail, several hawks & a wild pidgeon. -

April 8"

Enjoyed a splendid day around Clove Lake with Jack Rimmer & Will. Smith. - Water turtles, snakes and snipe in plenty around the ponds. - Chased a rabbit and saw first swallows. - Weather very warm. -

April 22"

Out in the woods with Will. Smith. - Found a number of flowers that I never saw before, back of Silver Lake and in the Clove Lake swamp. - Father has named them for me; Claytonia Virginiana, Erythronium Americanum, Euphonia coccinea, and Orobanche uniflora. -

May 1"

Found first nest of the season, a crow's, with 5 eggs, in a tall maple tree near Logan's Spring.

May 13"

Tried trapping yellow birds and caught 2. - Took a little stroll in the woods and saw a shytepoke out at Clove Lake.

May 20"

First birdsnesting day. Found 2 brown thrush's, a robin's and a song sparrow's - all with eggs. - Frightened up a large covey of woodcock in the underbrush near Brittons new pond just south of Bard Av. - Met Will Smith out in the woods & had an exciting chase after a chipmunk.

May 28"

Took a stroll with Father out in the woods. - Scared up a pair of quail in Goodhue's place.

May 30"

Went out for a walk in the woods. - Met Will Smith. - Found catbirds nests, yellow breasted chat and wood thrush's. - Wild strawberries are getting ripe. - Saw a quail & 2 rabbits. - Found a crow's nest with a young dead crow under it, just back of Silver Lake. - Weather very hot - 98° in the shade - felt quite sick from the heat by the time I got home.

June 10"

Out in the woods all day with Will Smith. - Saw quail and a muskrat. - Caught 3 water turtles and a land turtle. - Lots of suckers in the brook leading into Clove Lake, just south of the Turnpike. Caught a big one almost a foot long.

June 15"

Went up to see Ferd. Van Zandt, on Bard Ave. - Their place is a fine nesting ground. Amongst other nests found an indigo bird's with 3 eggs. - Ferd. gave me 58 eggs that he had collected this year. -

A house wren has built in a little clay house which is suspended by a string in a maple tree. Every day Ferd. lowers the house and gets a new egg. I wonder how long the bird will keep this up. -

June 17"

Went a walk with Ferd. Van Zandt, nearly to Four Corners. - Longest walk I ever took on the Island. - Saw a tremendous big black snake, snipe & quail. Found seven nests - all common ones. - Got plenty of wild strawberries and cherries. -

June 26"

Took a stroll in the woods and found a pe-wees nest with 3 eggs. -

July 3"

Went a walk with Jack Rimmer. - Found only one nest - a humming bird's, with young ones in it. -

July 9"

Out in the woods with Will. Smith. - Mulberries and huckleberries very plentiful. - Found a robin's nest with 3 eggs - must be second brood I guess. -

Aug. 5"

Had a day's crabbing with Ferd. & Chas. Van Zandt over in New Jersey, in Platty Kill Creek. Caught a great lot. -

Aug. 7"

Out in the woods with Will. Smith. - Found a song sparrow's nest with 3 eggs. - About the third brood I guess! -

Aug. 17th

Took a walk with Will. Smith, out in the woods. —

Found a song sparrow's nest with 3 eggs — the last of the season I guess! —

Made up my egg statistics for the season and they foot up: nests found 51

eggs " 121

" taken 61

Aug. 22nd

Went shooting with Ferd. & Chas. Van Zandt. — Shot about half a dozen birds, including a shytepoke. — Lots of birds around Clove Lake — kingfishers, quails, snipe, shytepokes, hawks, besides rabbits and muskrats. —

Sept. 7th

Went shooting with Will. Smith, around the ponds. Got a shytepoke & a teeter snipe. — Fired at the fish hawk that haunts Clove Lake, but only succeeded in knocking feathers out of him. — He is there every time I visit the locality. — Got quite a lot of hazel nuts from a couple of bushes back of Clove Lake. —

Sept. 8th

Tried shooting again around the ponds. — Met Will. Smith. — The old fish hawk was on hand again & so was a blue heron. — Fired my first shot at a meadow lark — their flight resembles a quail. — Missed a woodcock on the fly. — Succeeded in shooting a dabchick in Marthings' upper pond. —

Sept. 13th

A large flock of rusty crow black birds settled down in a tree on our hill this afternoon & I succeeded in getting 4 at one shot. — They are in fine plumage. —

Sept. 23"

Had a long day's walking. - Had been all around the ponds & out to Four Corners with my gun, but got nothing. - Coming back home by Silver Lake met Will Smith and he induced me to go down to South Beach. - Didn't get down there until about 2 o'clock and home by about 7 o'clock. - Got lots of beach plums, but nothing else of any account, except that I found lots of cactus growing in the strips of woods between the meadow & beach and I succeeded in getting my hands full of prickles. - I guess this is the longest day's tramping I ever had in my life. -

Sept. 30"

Went shooting with Will Smith. - Learned how to shoot highholders. We had chased around all morning without luck & finally stationed ourselves near a sour gum tree back of Silver Lake & waited. We got 13 highholders out of this one tree. - The constant looking up & shooting have given me a racking headache. - Besides the highholders the tree was constantly full of cat birds, downy woodpeckers, thrushes &c., all feeding off the sour gum berries. - Saw wild pigeons & got first chestnuts. -

Oct. 7"

Went out with Jack Rimmer. - Took a look around the ponds & saw some wild ducks. - Got quite a lot of large fox grapes - very good. -

Nov. 29"

Went out with my gun, in company with Will Smith & Büchner's gardener. - Saw some rabbits & scared out a horned owl from the cedars back of Le Ban's place. - Also saw some cardinal grosbeaks. -

The Liverwort.

Of all our flowers the first to blow,
The first to rise from Winter's bed
Ere Spring has scarce killed Winter's snow,
And all else seems so cold & dead.-
First to welcome Spring again,
In some sheltered nook & warm,
Where all Winter thou hast lain,
Safe from fierce old Winter's storm.

Bright & blue eyed little flower
Thy humble off'ring is not in vain,
Peeping from under thy leafy tower
And nourished by Spring's light warm rain.
For oh how eager I watch for thee!
And oh what joys thy bloom doth bring,
And what a prize is thy flower to me
As the herald of returning Spring.-

The Solitary Tramp.

Once again I wander onward
Under the dark green trees,
With my playmates bright & merry,
The laughing flowers & busy bees.-

Genus Homo I've forsaken
Not one to my taste I find,
For all, midst Nature's wondrous works,
Seem to walk with eyes half blind.-

So through the woods I wander onward,
All alone & no one nigh,
The flowers talking in Nature's language
Which no one understands but I.-

Dec. 22"

Went out in the woods to try and get some greens
for Xmas.- Weather mild & snowing finely.- Brought
my gun along incidentally & while walking through
the Clove Lake swamp saw some quail hiding in
tussocks of sedge. Blazed away & knocked 3.-

At the Pond.

Around the pond the snipe & bitterns
 Hold a concert, (admission free),
 While the trees & flowers laugh & listen
 As if they liked such a scene to see.

A crow looks on approvingly,
 And now and then "caw caws",
 Which means, in the language of the crows,
 I give unlimited applause.

But soon as I, a new spectator,
 Break upon the happy scene,
 All vanish, like as if by magic,
 Leaving me, alone, to dream.

an. 20"

Went shooting around Goodhue's place with Will
 Van der Zee. - Big day for robins and cedar birds.
 Weather warm and clear. - Shot 2 cedar birds & 9 robins.
 Got 4 robins at one shot.

Feb. 24"

Skating on Silver Lake in morning. - Met Will Smith &
 Sam Martino & walked back to Clover Lake with them.
 A muskrat ran across from one side of the lake to the other
 on the ice. - Grand concourse of crows near Silver
 Lake. -

March 25"

Took a tramp as the weather was very fine. - Saw a
 woodcock & first butterfly. - Bent my energies to
 stick cutting! The underbrush back of Clover Lake is
 full of young beech trees, many of them starting
 from old roots, which almost invariably make
 good crooks or handles. - Was very much amused
 at watching two mongrel dogs hunting on their own
 account, evidently oblivious to the fact that they were
 being observed. - I suppose they were after rabbits
 and field mice. - If the energy they displayed could
 only be turned to some economical account it
 would be of value. -

April 4"

Took a little walk around the ponds. - Cut some choice
 sticks. - Saw a woodcock, blue heron, muskrat, and
 first swallows. - Weather very pleasant. -

April 11"

Took a walk as far as the Cave. - Found first flowers.
 Linnework of course. - Saw a kingfisher and several
 woodcock. - Fine weather. -

Through the Woods.

Then some times shake their mates above me,
As I wander through the shade,
While between their branches strays a sunbeam,
Peeping through as it strays.

It dances and gleams, a moment
Then vanishes out of sight,
While over my head, a crow, to his nest,
Is slowly winging his lazy flight.

This dark green boughs spread out & shelter
The tiny golden crested wren,
And, out from you old gray stump a squirrel
Is cautiously leaving his cozy den.

Now and then a woodcock, frightened,
Whirs up from the mossy ground,
And a cat bird scolds at me from the bushes,
Thinking perhaps her nest is found.

Do you wonder that I am happy
With these playmates fair & dear,
For there's always something bright & cheerful
At any season of the year.

April 17"

In cleaning up a rubbish heap in the garden today
there was a most unmistakable skunk odor evolved
& finally a very comfortable lair was uncovered. It
had probably been used for some time, though why
a skunk should want to come away up here I
do not just comprehend. I should think that farm
buildings, or the outskirts of the village would be more
congenial locations.

April 20"

Walked out in the woods and found first nest - a
crow's with 5 eggs. Some of the spring flowers
are showing now - violets, Claytonia &c.

April 25"

Walked out as far as Clove Lake this morning.
Flushed up several night hawks from the ground, in thick
underbrush. - Picked up a sick painted vermilion and I think
it must have attracted a calf in a field I passed through. At
any rate I do not know how else to account for the absurd
and absorbing interest which the animal seemed to have
for me, following me several hundred feet wherever I
went.

May 2"

Went a little stroll in afternoon to look after crow's nests,
around Silver Lake. - Have seen several lately, and I want
a young crow. - Hammered the old flying squirrel stump,
near Goodhue's, and found it occupied. - Had one squirrel
caught, but it bit me through the thumb until I could feel
the teeth meet & I had to drop it. - I can remember this stump
being occupied years ago - an old Passafra, and close
beside it was another with a bigger hole, in which an owl
could hardly be found. - Passafra trees seem particularly
good to go hollow & serve as fine homes & hiding places
for owls, squirrels, mice &c.

Under the Pines.

I lay 'neath the pine tree's shelter,
 Safe from the chilling blast,
 While over my head like specters,
 They stretch their branches vast.
 And as I lay on the carpet
 Shed yearly by the pine
 Comes many a dream and fancy
 Into this brain of mine.
 Like an endless panorama
 All my past before me speeds
 While through all I see a pathway
 And I wonder where it leads.

Then the pine trees softly whisper
 "Forward, forward, on again!
 'Tis the path that you've been treading
 'Tis the path that leads to fame."

The Old Pine Tree.

Friend, pine tree, with your arms so green,
 Bendina low to shield my form
 Alike from summer's glaring heat,
 And fierce old Winter's blustering storm,
 I know you love me — do you not
 Bend closer when I pass below;
 And, whispering to the winds, say: "ah
 I wish he'd stay, I love him so!"
 I hear it, and while life remains
 My pen shall always write of thee,
 "From all my trials, troubles, woes,
 My refuge is the old pine tree."

May 3"

Took a tramp to look after my crows nests. — Was very much surprised to find that the nest in a chestnut tree just back of Silver Lake is a gray squirrel's! First one I ever found! — The other nest is still extant. —

May 6"

Walked out to the Cave. — Quantities of small warblers around. — Dog tooth violets in plenty and a beautiful white flowered bush, which Father says is the "Shad Bush". Several bushes of it in the underbrush back of Clove Lake. Kingfisher, brown thrushes & cat birds are back again. —

May 11"

Went a short stroll in the woods around Silver Lake. — A blue heron & "tetter" snipe were there. — Layed a chewink out cold with a stone. — Invested 10 cts. in a yellow bird for trapping purposes. —

May 12"

Took Jim Salem out for a walk this morning. — Discovered another crow's nest, near Logan's Spring. — Shytipokes, kingfisher & snipe at Clove Lake. — A beautiful object at the present time is the young beech suckers with leaves showing every imaginable tint between pale yellowish white, salmon pink and crimson. — They rival the Autumn foliage. —

May 17"

A good day's tramping around Clove Lake & Fair Corners. Found a number of nests, amongst which was a shytipoke's with four eggs. — Land & water turtles are all out in quantity now. — Azaleas are in bloom & crow foot violets at their best. Also a flower that looks like an aster. It grows about midway between Silver Lake & Brillows new pond. — Heard song sparrows singing about 10.30 o'clock last night. — Wonder if they keep it up all night?

May 22"

Jack Rimmer tells me today that he has been having
"no end of fun with the Indian turnips. I gave him
— almost had to flee for his life from a fellow on
the boat who ate a piece. — Took a little walk out to
Silver Lake this morning to lay in a stock of the fruit.

May 23"

Went out to my crow's nest in the cedars back of Silver
Lake and brought home two young crows. Intend to
try and rear them up. —

June 6"

Struck out in new paths today, further than I ever
went before, up on to Ocean Terrace. Interesting
regions totally unknown to me. — Found 5 nests, one
of them I do not know, with two eggs. — Scared up several
woodcock. — Have named my crows "Grip" and "Bobble". —

June 12"

Shouldered my scoop net this morning & went out
with Will Corson & Geo. Sinclair. — Scooped some
fresh water lobsters, lizards, caddis worms &c. for my
aquarium. —

June 16"

Took a boat with Jack Rimmer & Ferd. Van Zandt
& rowed over to the sand bank at Constable Hook.
Dug out a great number of bank swallow's nests &
secured lots of eggs. — Also found a kingfisher's
with young ones. —

June 19"

Went a walk in the woods & found 3 nests — a crow's
& a hawk bird's & a mouse's. — The hawk bird's nest had
2 cow-black bird's eggs in it. — Wild roses & evening primroses
in bloom. —

June 20"

Out in the woods with Will. Smith. - Fed on strawberries & cherries in abundance. - Had a good swim in Marthing's Pond -

July 5"

Went out shooting with Jack Rimmer & Ferd. Van Zandt. - We made for Marthing's Pond and spent the bulk of the day in swimming. - Shot a woodcock & kingfisher. - Ferd. & Jack. each shot a snipe. Black-cap raspberries are beginning to be ripe & cherries are still plenty. - Ferd. also managed to shoot a chicken. -

July 6"

Went out shooting with Jack. Rimmer, Ferd. Van Zandt & Arthur Livingston. - Had woodcock in our minds eyes but didn't get any. - Our total score footed up:

2 snipe - 2 kingbirds - 1 red winged blackbird - 1 red start - 1 chipmunk. -

Had a good long swim in Marthing's Pond and got badly sunburnt. - Enjoyed the day immensely. -

Aug. 14"

Shouldered my gun & went out to Clove Lake. - Shot 2 large snipe & 1 small one. - Saw a white heron, mytepoles & woodcock. - Ripe apples beginning to appear upon the scene. -

Aug. 17"

Counted up my birds nesting figures for the year & find they foot up:

nests found 57

eggs " 135

" taken 33

Aug. 18"

Swallows are congregating for the Fall migration. -

Aug. 19"

Took a long day's shooting with Ferd. Van Zandt at South Beach. - Spent most of the time in a state of nature & it is a curious fact that birds do not seem nearly as frightened & will let you approach quite close if you haven't any clothes on. The tide was out & we lay around in the shallow water at the mouth of the Creek until both of us were badly sunburnt. Shot 6 terns - 3 Am. snipe - 1 sandpiper & 7 swallows. - Cooked the swallows for lunch. - Succeeded in getting a lot of sand in the gun while pushing it in front of me as I crawled up on a flock of birds, & when I fired the barrel of the gun burst out like a balloon near the muzzle & I went ~~over~~ backwards. - I presume it was a narrow escape from an explosion. - Almost frantic with thirst when we started for home. -

Sept. 3"

Rowed down to South Beach with Clif. Wheeler and took our guns along. - Shot a sandpiper and a sharpshinned hawk. Took the hawk on the wing. Saw a great number of bird hawks - I suppose on the watch for small birds that are just now flocking for their Fall migrations. -

Sept. 14"

Went shooting with Sam. Roosevelt around the Ponds and Four Corners. - Shot a chipmunk. - Found some fine large wild grapes, very good apples & the first few hazel nuts. - Met "crazy" Ephraim. - Picked up 10 cts. in the road near Martings pond. - The swamps begin to look gay with the cardinal flower now. -

Sept. 20"

Went on a long exploring expedition all alone, into hitherto unknown regions. - Had my gun along and shot a chipmunk & a downy wood pecker. Located lots of fine apple trees. -

Sept. 21"

Went shooting & got 8 highholders. Also got a bundle of sticks to work up into walking canes - mostly apple & nanny-berry. -

Sept. 23"

Tramped around nearly all day with my gun & was just about going home disgusted when I saw a fish hawk on an old rotten tree near Clow Lake. He saw me as soon as I saw him, but I got the drop & knocked him. Great quantities of bird hawks around & quite a number of wild pigeons. -

Sept. 25"

Out with my gun around the Ponds. - Saw a grebe and some sort of a strange hawk. - Shot a red headed wood pecker & a wild pigeon. - The latter was eating acorns in the woods right near the foot of our Hill. - Chestnuts beginning to be eatable. -

Sept. 30"

A big exploration day! - Started in at the Clow Road iron mines & then followed along Ocean Terrace and home by way of Clow Lake. - Saw a flock of wild ducks in Clow Lake, shytapokes & kingfishers. - Gray squirrels on Ocean Terrace. - Shot 1 kingfisher & 1 highholder. - Scooped in chestnuts, walnuts, hazel nuts and wild grapes in abundance & a number of fine apple trees. - The view from Ocean Terrace, over the Lower River, is magnificent & I just lay down & feasted my eyes on it. -

Oct. 3"

Got out in the woods at 5 o'clock this morning. Tried shooting & got 8 highholders, most of them out of dogwood trees where they were feeding on the berries. Met John Waters & we made an organized raid on apple & chestnut trees. - Made quite a haul. -

Oct. 10"

Out chestnutting all day with Will Richardson. Got a good pile, mostly from the hill back of Clove Lake. - Brought along my gun and shot a crow. -

Oct. 11"

Had another day's chestnutting with Will Richardson. They are falling fast and we had but little trouble to shake 'em off. -

Oct. 12"

Tried chestnutting again with Will Richardson and Arthur Livingston. - Scooped a goodly pile. - Saw snow buntings, shy tipoke, kingfisher & a wild pidgeon. - Shot a highholder. -

Oct. 13"

Jack Rimmer came down today, so I took him out in the woods to pick up some chestnuts. - Met Will Richardson on the same errand. -

Oct. 14"

Took Will Richardson out to some of my private localities on Ocean Terrace. He fairly gaped in wonder at the apples, pears, chestnuts & wall nuts that I showed him. We came back loaded. My former tramps are now bearing good fruits. Succeeded in getting a snap shot at some wild ducks in a pond hole near the iron mines, but missed. - A glorious day! -

Oct. 15"

Another day's chestnutting with Will. Richardson. - Got quite a good lot of hickories also. - Now indeed am I glad that I loved to take long tramps alone. I can show most of my companions now where to go for many things that they were either ignorant of, or else knew only in limited quantities. -

Oct. 16"

Tried Ocean Terrace again with Will. Richardson. - Experienced the finest chestnut day of the year. - Got a hold of some particularly large ones. -

Oct. 17"

Out to Ocean Terrace again with Will. Richardson. - Confined our efforts to Walnuts today & came back with a full load. - As we undertook to hull them as fast as we got them we are now pretty well stained

Oct. 21"

Went shooting with Will. Richardson. - Shot 5 robins, 1 blue jay, 1 bird hawk & 1 red poll. -

Oct. 30"

Went shooting with Ed. Vander Zee. - Got 2 high holders, 1 robin, 1 cedar bird & 1 rabbit. - Took the rabbit on the run, & made about the best shot of my life. -

Nov. 8"

Out on a shoot with Ed. Vander Zee. Got 9 cedar birds & 3 robins. - Six of the cedar birds were at one shot. - Got a number of very fair persimmons. - Cut a bundle of walking sticks to work on during the Winter. - Something made me shoot so wild today that I missed 10 shots! I have had these spells upon me before and I can not account for them. -

Nov. 13"

Went shooting with Will Richardson. - Got nothing, so as a compromise I cut a big bundle of apple sticks. - When everything else fails I can always fall back on stick cutting. -

Nov. 16"

First snow of the season! -

Nov. 21"

A cool bracing day. - Walked out with no very definite object. - Made the tour of all the ponds, commencing with the Harbor & ending on Ocean Terrace. Came back with a bundle of sticks. - I have located three bushes of whitethorn near Clove Lake & am pruning them so as to try and grow some good branches for walking sticks - they are almost too small yet. -

Nov. 25"

Out in the woods with Will Richardson. - Cut a number of sticks & discovered more whitethorn. - Scared up a large flock of quail by Clove Lake. -

Dec. 4"

Went out on a sort of a "tare" by myself. - There is a hedge row back of Clove Lake composed of many berry bushes mostly, and intertwined with bitter-sweet vines. - These latter have in many instances wound round the branches & left deep furrows in the wood. - Cut a number of sticks that look as if they had been artificially turned. - It is rough work and my hands and clothes are pretty well torn. - I think I ought to have some pretty good looking sticks out of this lot. -

Dec. 17

My two crows were subjects of interest today. "Grip" has developed into a large, sturdy bird, but "Gobble" is smaller & not so aggressive. A hawk attempted to fly away with "Gobble", & my attention was attracted by the noise the crows made. It was a small hawk, apparently a pigeon hawk, & when I first saw it it was sitting alongside the crow trying to get a hold with its claws. If I had not been afraid of the result I should have liked to watch the affair; as it was, I scared the bird off. The more I think of it the more I wonder that the hawk should try to strike while perching, instead of making a strike on the fly.

Dec. 23

Took a tramp after "greens" for Xmas. Walked all over the ponds. Didn't get much — some Prinos berries, Rose hips, cedar & pine boughs.

Dec. 27

A deep, deep snow. As usual after a heavy snow storm the white snow birds showed themselves.

Dec. 28

Quantities of white snow birds are here, settling in flocks on our hill, Ward's hill, & Pavilion hill. Went out after them with my gun but had no luck.

Dec. 30

The white snow birds still remaining here I sallied out with my gun & spent most of the day out on our hill, shooting. In company with the snow birds were numbers of the horned larks. Shot 17 white snow birds & 3 horned larks. Succeeded in getting 9 at one shot! Quite a day!

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Jan. 6"

A meadow lark actually came up on our hill today! Got out my gun - fired two shots and missed - Saw quite a number of white snow birds also -

Jan. 7"

That meadow lark was around here today again & I got another pop at him with the usual result. He must have a charmed life. - Succeeded in shooting 3 white snow birds - all at one shot. -

Jan. 8"

Had the pleasure of chasing the meadow lark over our hill today again, but didn't get a shot. - It is certainly curious how that bird sticks to this place; and I never saw one here before, either. -

Jan. 19"

A combination of fog, rain & frost has rendered everything gorgeous beyond comparison. Every tree is a mass of ice & the sunlight shining on it gives an appearance that I never before remember to have seen equalled. Not only the trees but the shrubs & grass are also in the same condition. - It was a beautiful sight while it lasted, but many of the trees lost branches by the weight of the ice and I know that there must be considerable damage done. -

Mch. 1"

The snow of the past few days has brought the customary white snow birds here. Went out with my gun and succeeded in shooting 5. Took two "on the fly". -

Mch. 14"

Went a little walk in the woods and came across the flying squirrels again. Smoked them out & had an exciting chase but without success. - Wonder if these are the same family or whether another lot has been attracted to the same tree. -

Mch. 31

Went quite a walk through my favorite localities, in the hope that I should find the first flower in bloom, but was disappointed. - Big snow banks still exist in many places and the ground is cold wet, but everywhere the signs of returning Spring are apparent. - The red buds of the maples blush in the breeze & nod & roll in their merriment as if fairly ready to burst with joy. The young blades of grass have put on their new Spring suits and are showing themselves - cautiously though, as if rather doubtful of the propriety of the action. In the swamp too, several, old, weather-worn bullrushes wake up from their long Winter nap, shake their torn & battered heads, & nod a welcome to the fair young Spring.

April 3

Went out on a tramp with Will Smith. - Out some sticks and transplanted some trees for the garden. - Weather warm and pleasant. - Kingfishers & pewees back again. -

April 10

Took a tramp out around Clove Lake. - Saw a kingfisher, purple heron, wild pigeons, several hawks and first swallows. - In the water, right under the chestnut tree that was struck by lightning the other night, I found a half dead sucker, almost a foot long. Wonder if it was a case of cause & effect. Also caught a broken legged song sparrow. Close by the Cave the first liverworts were in full bloom. I have a certain sort of pride in finding the first flowers, before anyone else has looked at them. I love to push back the dead leaves & let the sunshine in to them, knowing that no other person has seen them besides myself. It gives me a sense of ownership that is very alluring. - It is strange that no matter how early or unexpectedly I may find the first flowers there are always some insects who seem to have been more wise or correspondingly lucky. - Several bee-like flies were around today, although the flowers had evidently only been open for a day or perhaps two. -

April 15"

Every time lately that I have walked out near Clove Lake, I have seen a blue heron, so I went out today with my gun & saw the same bird, but couldn't get a shot. — Succeeded in getting a gray squirrel instead. — Found first nest of the season — a crow's with 2 eggs. —

April 26"

Went out for a short walk by Silver Lake, and picked up a 50 ct. stamp. — This will just do to bring me into the circus with tonight. — Saw what I think was a partridge, but won't be certain. —

April 30"

Went on a tremendous exploring expedition along Ocean Terrace & then inland. — Discovered a most beautiful valley, with steep high banks — such a spot as I never imagined to exist on Staten Island. And it was carpeted with a most lovely white flower, that Father says is the "Bloodroot". — Didn't get back home until 4 o'clock. — Got up to a hawk's nest in a chestnut tree just back of Clove Lake & secured one egg. — Came across a jolly old hollow willow tree in a ravine on Ocean Terrace — must visit there again after possible owls. — Close by, just on the borders of the woods, found a hickory nut tree with the ground under just covered with splendid thin shelled nuts. It is not often that you can get a chance to gather nuts in April. — Was surprised to see quantities of gold fish in several of the small ponds on Top of Ocean Terrace. —

May 12"

Went on another exploring expedition, along Ocean Terrace. — Discovered more walnut & apple trees. — Getting ready for next Fall. Found a young gray squirrel on the ground, but I am afraid he is hurt. —

The suckers are showing themselves in the brook leading into Clove Lake, just south of the Turnpike. —

May 12 (continued.)

Saw woodcock & chyte pokes. -

Found another hawk's nest, close by the first one, with one egg. - I think it is an old crow's nest fixed up for the occasion. Would never have noticed it except for the down hanging to the sticks, which gave it a suspicious look. I have no doubt that it is the same pair of hawks. -

May 14"

Walked around by the Ponds. - Saw a muskrat, chipmunk, snipe, chyte poke & kingfisher. -

Knocked a great crested flycatcher with a stone & the most curious part of the affair was that he saw the stone coming and deliberately bent down to catch it, apparently taking it for some insect. -

May 15"

Out on a tramp with Will Smith. - Brought my scoop net along & tried to catch some gold fish up on Ocean Terrace. There were too wary however & we didn't get one. In the brook, just south of the Turnpike however we saw some big suckers & scooped one fully a foot long. Also caught one speckled trout about as long as my finger. - Saw snipe & chyte pokes up on the Terrace. -

May 20"

Went a tramp with Will Richardson, and as he said had the "spring fever" I tried to walk it out of him. Went over through 4 corners. - Found 5 nests - 20 eggs. -

The Clow Lake swamp is resplendent with the *Euchroma coccinea*. -

May 25"

Took a rowboat with Jack Rimmer & Ferd. Van Zandt and rowed over to the sand bank at Constable Hook. - Dug out 12 sand swallows nests & 30 eggs. -

May 29"

Out in the woods this morning, just back of Silver Lake I watched a red headed wood pecker making a hole in a dead branch. I suppose it is for a nest so I must keep a watch on it. -

May 31"

Went rowing with Geo. Sinclair & Bert. Wheeler. - Went over to the Constable Hook sand bank & dug out about 10 sand swallows nests. Got 25 eggs. - Dug out a Kingfishers nest with young ones in it. - Had a swim & a clam-bake. -

June 7"

Went out trapping with Will. Richardson & Will. Smith. Tried the fields along the Manor Road, just north of Four Corners. - Caught 3 bobolinks & strange to say one of them was one that escaped from Will. Richardson a few days ago. We knew it by the feathers being worn off from the top of its bill where it had scraped them on the wires of the cage. -

Climbed and dug for about an hour to get at my woodpeckers nest & when I had finally reached the bottom of it found nothing. - It was about as difficult and dangerous a piece of work as I ever undertook in the bird's nesting line. & I am mad! -

July 4"

Started at 5.20 A.M. with Elif. Wheeler, to row around the Island. Arrive at New Dorp 7.20 - Great Kills 10 o'clock - Princes Bay 3.40 - Tottenville 4.20 - Rossville 6.30 - Chelsea 9.00 - Mariners Harbor 10.40 - West New Brighton 12.00 M. -

Nesting statistics for 1873.

Nests found = 54

Eggs found = 149

Eggs taken = 22

le. 1.30 - Stapleton 1.45 and
oted in 20 hrs. & 25 mins. -

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Went out trapping with Will. Richardson & Will. Smith. Tried the fields along the Manor Road, just north of Four Corners. - Caught 3 bobolinks & strange to say one of them was one that escaped from Will. Richardson a few days ago. We knew it by the feathers being worn off from the top of its bill where it had scraped them on the wires of the cage. -

Climbed and dug for about an hour to get at my woodpeckers nest & when I had finally reached the bottom of it found nothing. - It was about as difficult and dangerous a piece of work as I ever undertook in the birds nesting line. & I am mad! -

July 4"

Started at 5.20 A.M. with Cliff. Wheeler, to row around the Island. Arrive at New Dorp 7.20 - Great Kills 10 o'clock - Princes Bay 3.40 - Tottenville 4.20 - Rossville 6.30 - Chelsea 9.00 - Mornings Harbor 10.40 - West New Brighton 12.00 M. -

July 5"

New Brighton 1.00 - Tompkinsville 1.30 - Stapleton 1.45 and the circuit of the Island completed in 20 hrs. & 25 mins. -

Sept. 15"

Went shooting with Will. Richardson & Arthur Livingston. Thought we'd try South Beach. The mosquitoes were so bad that I left the boys and started for home overland. Shot 7 wallows, a pigeon hawk & a ringnecked plover. Walked over Ocean Terrace, iron mines & home by way of Britton's ponds. A big tramp, and didn't get back until 5 o'clock. - Discovered a small peach tree, with peaches on, near my little wild duck pond hole. - The pond hole, by the by, has been partly cleaned out and a shanty built at its side in the interest of the iron mines. Too bad to see how my points of interest are being invaded! -

Sept. 18"

Went shooting with Russell Lemist down to South Beach. Saw nothing on the beach but gulls & terns. Shot one meadow lark on the fly, nothing more. - Got roasted with the sun & devoured by the mosquitoes. - First time I ever went down to South Beach twice in one week. -

Oct. 11"

Went out with Ed. Van Der Zee on a plundering tour. - Made for Ocean Terrace & laid in a supply of apples, chestnuts & wall nuts - especially the latter. My hands and clothes are in a frightful condition. - A model day as regards the weather. -

Oct. 25"

Out shooting. - The chief feature today was the immense number of chipmunks out. Never saw so many on the Island before - they were everywhere. Shot 5. -

Nov. 1"

Out in the woods with Hearnay Catlin. - Saw an eagle sailing over the ponds & some trout in the brook. Shot 4 robins & 2 chipmunks. -

1873

Nov. 4"

Went shooting with Jack. Rimmer. -- Had a big day. Never saw the robins so thick. Came home with a string of 38. -- Met Ford. Van Zandt, and he shot a trout in the brook. --

Nov. 9"

Went out with Jack. Rimmer on a tramp. -- Saw two trout in the brook between Silver Lake & the first pond. -- We dammed the brook above & below them, got a couple of forked sticks & finally succeeded in catching them. -- One was a big one. --

Nov. 16"

Went on a trout hunt with Jack. Rimmer and caught 2 in the same place as before. -- Our method is to dam the brook so that they can not escape and then try to straddle them with a forked stick and hold them to the ground until we can grab them. -- Had a good feed of persimmons from the trees near Silver Lake. Just about at their best. -- Jack. made the best shot with a stone that I ever saw: fired straight into a wood pecker's hole, high up a tree & knocked the limb off. --

Nov. 27"

Shooting with Jack. Rimmer along Ocean Terrace. On the way out I yanked an owl out of the hollow sassafras tree just back of Silver Lake. -- Fired into gray squirrels nests, and by the time we were ready to go home had 3 squirrels bagged. -- Saw several more trout in the brooks. -- Picked up quite a lot of nuts under my paper shelled hickory nut tree on Ocean Terrace. --

1873

Nov. 28"

Went on a tremendous exploring expedition. Got nearly over to Richmond. Came across new brooks, ponds, buildings &c. & gained a quantity of information for future use. Went further into the Island than ever before & tried to loose myself, but I finally blundered on to the Turnpike & so got home. - Shot a flying squirrel. -

Dec. 14"

Went out in the woods with Jack. Rimmer. - Found the old, & a frs tree back of Silver Lake inhabited by flying squirrels. Succeeded in bringing two home alive, after a most lively & exciting chase. -

Dec. 20"

Out after greens for Christmas. - Staggered home with a load of, lycopodium, cedar, holly, & pines. -

1874

Epitaph on "Gobble".

Here lies a crow, surnamed "Gobble", because
Of an unhappy failing she had,
Which was to devour, without any comment,
All articles found by her, wholesome or bad.

Small tacks & pebbles she swallowed with ease,
Nor hurt in the least her digestion;
But bi-chromate of potash proved even to much
For her iron clad stomach to question.

And so the next day, after swallowing some lumps
Of this article mentioned beforehand,
We found her black body curled up in a bunch
And her spirit departed to ghostland. —

Moral.

Thieving is bad, that's no moral I know,
And as stale as boarding house hash;
But stale as it is, better swallow it all,
Than a lump of bi-chromate of potash. —

Jan. 7

"Gobble" is dead. ! All else today is swallowed up in this one sad sentence. My poor, patient, overtaxed little "nightingale" is gone to the land of the shadows. — Black as a crow could be — patient in tribulation — may all the trials, and anxieties, of the brief life thus lost just departed, end with it and all after be oblivion, or peace & quietude, that thou so well deserveest. — Mourn oh "Grip"! thou hast lost thine only companion — one who through all thy tyrannous rule was patient, forbearing and meek. — Never will thou find such another to bless thy henceforth solitary way. —

And how strange the grape arbor will look, without thy black form sitting there in quiet sorrow, even though "Grip" pull thy tail, yank thy wing, or vex thee sore in other ways. I will give thee a good burial and endeavor to write thee an epitaph that shall tell of thy untimely end in a befitting & proper manner.

Jan. 24

Was out in the woods with Jack. Rimmer all morning. — Smoked seven flying squirrels out of a sassafras just back of Silver Lake.

Feb. 14

As the weather was propitious took a tramp in the woods — the first chance I've had for a long time. — Didn't accomplish much, but sat under the grand old white pines on the hill back of Clove Lake. I love and venerate these old trees. How anyone could for a moment think of destroying such beautiful objects I can not for a moment understand, and yet I have no doubt that ere many years the axe will have laid them low.

Feb. 21

Took a tramp through the mud, over the Serpentine, through the iron mines and along Ocean Terrace. — Saw some trout in the brook and routed out a flying squirrel. — Crows were congregating in great numbers, in the neighborhood of the cemeteries. —

March 14"

Took a big tramp with Eleanor over to Richmond. - Weather magnificent & walking superb. - Discovered a perfect forest of holly trees on the hill back of Richmond. - Arrived about lunch time & got back home about 4 o'clock. -

Mch. 21"

Tramped up to the region of the cave this morning, in the hopes of finding the first flowers in bloom & was not disappointed. - The Liverwort was fully out. -

April 3"

Good Friday! Went out with Jack Rimmer. - Picked up an old butterfly net & used it to catch two flying squirrels, from the sassafras tree back of Silver Lake. - Tramped over Ocean Terrace. - Dived into several nests, robbing two flying squirrels out of one & a gray squirrel out of another. - On the way home bagged a night-holder. -

April 6"

Out for a short walk in the woods. - Caught a curious kind of a beast - think it was a shrew. - Kingfishers are back again and quantities of night-holders. -

April 11"

Saw first wallow. -

April 13"

Went on a tremendous tramp with Eleanor, to Tottenville! - Reached Richmond at lunch time & then took over to Biffords. - Walked along the R.R. from there & reached Tottenville at about 4 o'clock. - Took the train home. - It was about three hours in reaching Richmond from home. -

April 14"

Went out with Jack Rimmer up to the cave, and found first
of the - a crow - 1st 5 yrs. -

May 7"

Took a short walk, this morning. Weather mild. A great profusion of spring flowers, dogtooth violets, and wild crocuses, which the birds seem to have in mind. Shrikes, jays, chickadees, catbirds, brown thrushes, etc. heard to be in the brush just south of the bluff.

May 23"

Out on an egging tour this morning. Made a haul of 11 nests, 32 eggs.

While looking for a nest after a chipmunk, and it continued to rain until the top was over head, about two to five ft. from the ground. It tried to get into an adjoining tree, but failed in finding a hole to the ground. Found it alone, and took it to the nest. It seems all right now. The do not seem to be coming off the ground, but take to trees near forest, it were.

May 28"

Took Bert Wheeler's boat and we rowed over to Constable Hook. dug out 10 nests of the bank swallow and got 30 eggs. Found a lot of blackbirds' nests in a brushy swamp, just back of the bluff.

May 29"

At about 5.15 P.M. started from Staleton, with Jack Wheeler & Bert Wheeler & his big dog. Tramped down to South Beach & struck the cedar grove at about 6 P.M. Picked a good camping place and made a fire. Fine moon, and clear cool weather. Nothing but a blanket & gun in the way of traps. Our only incident worth mentioning was when Bert fell down the R.R. embankment and broke the water pipe. It was a very funny thing. We stayed in the grove until about 10 P.M. and then went back to the bluff.

May 30"

Could not go to sleep much last night - it was rather chilly. Got up at 3.30 A.M. and went on a tramp after deer. After the success of this search a breakfast we took our blankets in the cedars and started for a big day's hunt. - Jack, successful in finding a fox's nest and shooting what I think is a slate colored hawk. - The total find of eggs was 10 nests - 37 eggs. - Stuck to the lowlands until afternoon and then started for home over Ocean Terrace. Arrived home at about 7 P.M. -

June 6"

Rainy & foggy. - Went out with Bert. & saw in spite of it. - Found a box turtle and Bert. shot it. - It was a female on account of its plain reddish-brown. It was open and secured four eggs. - I must look at this alleged high back distinction, as it does seem to be a cock. -

June 14"

Started out this morning at 6.30 o'clock for a visit with L. B. Wheeler & Jack. Nimmer. - Our first incident worthy of note was trying to secure a second tanagers nest on the Serpentine Road. Was successful in breaking the entire set of eggs, as the nest was on a limb that we had to cut & our bird went. - All in all a little near Carrolltown. I picked up a quail. - This found the nest, with 32 eggs! As they were so healthy fresh I took them all. - The found on the same place the bird and broke them all open with great success. - Secured 17 eggs from a hen all told. - I must be coming around the Loop & Carrolltown, and home over Ocean Terrace, with delight at the day's tramp. - I guess the total score was about 100 eggs. -

Did not get out till the morning with stiff & winter
 weather down to 10 below. May - I shot a lot of birds
 to spare the fields better and I lost 100 in about
 an hour and a half. I shot a pair of
 the same as I have all the grub with it. It
 was a serious matter. I was almost faint with
 hunger by the time I had walked to New York,
 where I got some cider & a sandwich. - I had
 a good lunch there - opened a box turtle and got
 3 eggs - found a "teeler" snipes nest with a set
 of eggs, also a nest that I take to be a sharp
 billed finches. - Climbed a tree over Cedar Grove
 through the Moravian Cemetery. -

July 17

Went on a train with Bert Wheeler along South Beach.
 Found a big berry & huckleberry patch in the cedars
 and came home getting full.

Calculated up my nesting statistics for the year as
 follows:

Nests found = 46

Eggs found = 300

Eggs taken = 54

Aug. 5th

Went shooting with Oliver Walser up to Old Place.
 Shot a snipe & a shrike. Lost my powder flask.
 Got a head on a quail but he skipped just in time. -

Aug. 10th

Circumnavigated Staten Island with Oliver Walser and J. L.
 Pinner. Left Mariners Harbor in a cat boat at 10 A.M.
 Turned the point at 12 M. at 1 P.M. at 2 P.M. at 3 P.M.
 Left at 3 o'clock & Mariners Harbor returned at 11.30.
 Walked all the way home in just 11 hours & 15 minutes. -

Aug. 29th

Went out on a shoot with Will Richardson. First thing, saw a woodcock at the spring by Prentice's farm. Let fly, & shot it on the wing. - Put over to Globe Lake, quite elated. Met old man Britton superintending some dam construction, & when he saw what I had he remarked sarcastically that since I had such good luck I'd better go down the pond and shoot that "crane". - I went, & saw a big bird wading in the water. Plugged it, & it turned out to be a great blue heron!

Aug. 31st

Went out on a shoot with Will Richardson, & now we took Jimmy Taylor along as an errand boy. - Tried South Beach for a change. - Dug a hole in the sand and made a barricade of brush. Snipe were plentiful, & kept coming all the time. It was my off day though apparently and I only succeeded in bagging seven. - Muffed some fine shots - one of them at a duck. - Saw some yellow legs. All the birds we shot and nearly all I saw were American snipe. - There is no mistake about the fact that the birds do not seem to pay the attention to you when you are without clothing that they do when you are dressed.

Sept. 12th

Went down to South Beach with Jack Reimer & Oliver Walter. - Not many birds out - shot three American snipe. - Have my foot a bad nick with a shell.

Sept. 16th

Rain today ends the longest drought I ever remember. There has been, until today, absolutely no rain since Aug. 8th - almost six weeks. -

1877

Took a tra-^p with my gun. Shot Gray Squirrel & lingham.
he stuck by me all day. Explored Bel's place &
struck some fine apples. Went to Worm Terrace.
came across a fine lot of rusty berries. Shot a
light elder & gray squirrel. —
On the way home. I was pushing my way through the
bushes in Ocean Terrace when a deafening report made
me stop. a large & confused sort of way, where I
had collected my thoughts & looked around me. shot
flash was in the ground and my gun on the
muzzle — my right ear was deaf & several
shot holes were through the brain of my hat. It will
always be a mystery to me just how the thing oc-
curred, and I never want it to occur again.

Oct. 3"

Oct. 2, 4 "

Oct. 31"

Went out for a walk with J. & M. Taylor. and B. A. & we made a combined search of the brooks for trout. Saw several trout in each brook & one for each. B. A. shot one & then I got wild, for I had a net with which to capture them. — Ran back home, got a net and started in for a regular hunt. — Scooped two small ones and was just about to give up when a vigorous poking under the bank brought out a big fellow & I secured it. — Weighed and measured. — He weighed when I got home with the following & salt: wt. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., length 14 in. — (After this I have about $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of trout to eat! Pretty good for it.)

Nov. 3"

Election Day. — Went for a big tramp & shoot with J. & M. Taylor. — Met Kearney, Catlin & we explored along the river for a while all day. — Saw a good many things, shot a gray squirrel, rabbit, robin, trout & what not. — Finally came home with the latter two subjects in my bag. — Struck a good specimen of a tree, also a fine one.

Nov. 4"

A blue day, & our poor old "Grif" kicked the bucket! He has been such a fixture of the place for the last two and a half years, & has so grown into our hearts by his quaint ways, that we shall miss him with the greatest sorrow. —

Nov. 5"

Attended to poor old Grif's funeral. — He was a very many facts, but never before had one that has left behind that he has. — I suppose the change of something whenever I go into the garden & find a new one, a moment what it is, until I fall to and cry & understand what it means. — Poor old Grif, rest in peace.

thrust-out & did not get them. Magnificent weather all day, until

7 m

Green
house

Went out in the woods with Jimmie Day and saw two bears, but didn't get them. A squirrel got, as his mate had been chased by the chipmunk. My five guinea he was as wild as hares, scolding all a while. He was flying to the house like pigeons. of wild elephants.

Nov. 14

7 m

A big day's tramp with Bert, White & Jimmie. Went to the South Beach first, but saw only some wild meadow larks. Walked from the Terrace. Saw several trout in the brook. A magnificent day for walking.

Nov. 21

Green
house

Went out armed with a scoop net, in the hope of getting a trout or two. Wasn't successful. As I came back saw a small dog, a large dog, & a small dog. All appearances dead. Presently got up, & the dog was hanging down & made a bee line up against a fence, followed the dog for about five feet, diverged into the corner of a circle & again fetched up. The geese ranged themselves in a row. The chickens looked in.

Took advantage of a clear day, and went for a tramp. - Started at 9.30 and went to the Star Road at 11.40. - Put rig over the Fresh Kills Bridge to Richmond by 1.30 and came home by way of Missions Av. & Ocean Terrace. - Home at 4.30. - Over on the map I find it will look as if I can consider it as a "local" tramp.

Dec. 5

Started out for a tramp, without gun. Just as I got out by Clove Lake I saw three quail lying on the shallows in the brook & as I got near a fence rail, with which to snare them, in my hurry, the quail fled up & lit in the trees within where I stood! To me that I felt wild and in language - I fired a lump a dirt at the quail, & the fence rail at the front, & then put a line in a bee line for Richmond. - Struck Richmond in short meter - filled a bag with victuals for the squirrel & located a fine holly place for Xmas. - It was a magnificent tramp, but just as I was about to start, the quail,

Dec. 6

Started out for a tramp, without gun. Just as I got out by Clove Lake I saw three quail lying on the shallows in the brook & as I got near a fence rail, with which to snare them, in my hurry, the quail fled up & lit in the trees within where I stood! To me that I felt wild and in language - I fired a lump a dirt at the quail, & the fence rail at the front, & then put a line in a bee line for Richmond. - Struck Richmond in short meter - filled a bag with victuals for the squirrel & located a fine holly place for Xmas. - It was a magnificent tramp, but just as I was about to start, the quail,

April 23

Went out with Bert Wheeler for a good time. It was a magnificent day. - We got over fast. Some ominous clouds appeared in the West. The home through Blood Root valley and in a valley which has now time to show! - This is the most I have drawn out winter I ever have. The turtles were swimming themselves in. I saw wood thrushes and a kingfisher, but all the others are behind hand.

Saturday

Went out with Bert Wheeler for a good time. It was a magnificent day. - We got over fast. Some ominous clouds appeared in the West. The home through Blood Root valley and in a valley which has now time to show! - This is the most I have drawn out winter I ever have. The turtles were swimming themselves in. I saw wood thrushes and a kingfisher, but all the others are behind hand.

April 24

Went out with Bert Wheeler for a good time. It was a magnificent day. - We got over fast. Some ominous clouds appeared in the West. The home through Blood Root valley and in a valley which has now time to show! - This is the most I have drawn out winter I ever have. The turtles were swimming themselves in. I saw wood thrushes and a kingfisher, but all the others are behind hand.

Sunday

May 1st

Went out on traps. Didn't go far. Birds were in flower localities. Different kind to have come out all for the first time, wood thrushes and an osprey. - Killed a poor little bird with a pebble. - I think it looks like a sparrow.

Monday

The young boy appeared in front of my room this evening, & after a while, I heard some thing which made me think that the boy had become so overcome that he could not stand. I went out to see him, & found him lying on the ground. I picked him up & carried him to the house. He was very much exhausted, & I gave him some food & drink. He seemed to be all right again, & I let him go.

Man killed

ments - up went our windows & the boys, bombarding the wires. -

May 24"

Got up about 4 o'clock this morning and took a trip around the lake. Silver Lake.

W. S. Robinson

not especially to get the "Wake Robin", which I have lately learned to like so much. It is a beautiful little flower; fragrant & the legend about it concerning the Trinity is interesting. I found many of them and then went into the cedars and found a crow's nest - the first of the season, with two in it. It is in a locality as "Griff's" - a place where they have a nesting place each year - at least I think they are the same pair, & I am very inclined to believe that crows choose the same nesting place for more persistence than many people believe. I have seen a crow's nest in the same place for several years after the first.

Crows

I have seen a crow's nest in the same place for several years after the first. I have seen a crow's nest in the same place for several years after the first. I have seen a crow's nest in the same place for several years after the first.

Robins

I have seen a crow's nest in the same place for several years after the first. I have seen a crow's nest in the same place for several years after the first. I have seen a crow's nest in the same place for several years after the first.

May 25

I have seen a crow's nest in the same place for several years after the first. I have seen a crow's nest in the same place for several years after the first. I have seen a crow's nest in the same place for several years after the first.

May 28

Got up this morning by moonlight; went out to the crow's nest back of Silver Lake and brui home two crows. Went down to Bert. Wheeler's in afternoon and about 4 o'clock we got under way for South Beach. He has big way for con hany. We reached the cedars in plenty of time to fix up a shelter. Is get thin as in order before dark. - A fine clear night. -

May 29

Slept soundly until about three o'clock this morning when the mosquito began to make themselves felt. - Then we got up it was bright moonlight and our breakfast was eaten before sunrise. - Then we started on grand tramp. - Went cross lots up to the R.R. first, then down to break hills and back along the beach. The following is in score of birds:

Nests 21 - Eggs 76 - Eggs taken 10. -

It became monotonous at last. We found nests in nearly every bush and clump of grass. - Bert found a man. I did guess, and the salutation "another eat birds" or "another brown thrush" was continued being yelled from one to the other. - He also walked the poor old dog to death and on the home stretch he could hardly keep up with us. We had to wait for him every now and then. Arrived home after 7 o'clock. A bully day's tramp. -

June 5

Got off at 3.30 A.M. and put for Bert. Wheeler's. - Started out on another big tramp. Took in the South Side again, beginning near Barrettson's. - First thing of any account we encountered was a turkey setting on nest of eggs in some bushes. - We yanked her up by the tail. Took an egg each from under her as mementos, and let her down again. - We next almost trod on a

May 28"

Got up this morning by moonlight; went out to the crow's nest back of Silver Lake and drove home two crows. - Went down to Bert Wheeler's in the noon and about 4 o'clock we got under way for South Beach with his big dog for company. - We reached the cedars in plenty of time to lie up a shelter. - It got thin as in order before dark. - A fine clear night. -

May 29"

Slept soundly until about three o'clock this morning, when the mosquito began to make themselves felt. - When we got up it was bright moonlight and our breakfast was eaten before sunrise. - Then we started on a grand tramp. - Went cross lots up to the K. K. first, then down to Break Hills and back along the beach. The following is a score of birds:

Nests 21 - Eggs 76 - Eggs taken 10. -

It became more tedious at 11. - Found nests in nearly every bush and clump of grass. Bert found a number of "Red Tanager", and the salutation "another cat bird's" or "another brown thrush" was continually being yelled from one to the other. - We also walked the poor old dog to death and on the home stretch he could hardly keep up with us. We had to wait for him every now and then. - Arrived home after 7 o'clock. - A pretty day, tramp. -

June 5"

Got up at 3.30 A.M. and put for Bert Wheeler's. - Started out on another big tramp. - Took in the South Side again, beginning near Barrettson's. - First thing of any account we saw was a turkey sitting on a nest of eggs in some bushes. - We yanked her up by the tail, took an egg each under her as mementos, and let her down again. - We next a nest trod on a duck.

June 5" (continued)

setting on a nest of 12 eggs in a salt marsh. Took one apiece again. - My total score is as follows:

Nests 12 - Eggs 30 - Eggs taken 8. -

I had one hard dig at a highholders nest and after cutting away half the tree found 2 ones in it. - The most interesting incident of the day however was finding six more eggs in a highholder's nest that we took all out of last Saturday! - I wonder if the same bird layed them or whether another pair took possession of the hole? -

Got as far as Eltingville and as the day was beautiful enjoyed the tramp hugely. Home at about 7.30 o'clock.

June 12"

Got up about quarter to four o'clock this morning & started it with Bert Wheeler for another big tramp. - The first thing I saw was an oriole's nest away near the top of a black walnut tree inside a garden on the Richmond Road. It was so early that no one was stirring so I climbed up and scooped it. - We took the same general direction as before. - cross lots to Eltingville. - Flushed up a number of woodcock & several quail. - Captured a young crow almost full fledged. Brought home a couple of snakes too. The following is my egg score:

Nests 16 - Eggs 50 - Eggs taken 18. -

The day started in foggy and damp, but it cleared off nicely when the sun got up & we had a fine day. - I guess we have pretty well scoured the locality we are the tramped over in these three Saturday's jaunts, and we must seek for new fields to conquer. The day was not warm enough for me in spite of our not getting home until about half past nine o'clock. It was daylight until nearly eight o'clock. -

At night there were a few small parts of the island and the garden. Most of the plants were blackened. - Two of my cows died.

Went out for a walk in afternoon, to rest myself after a hard morning's study. - I wanted to collect some specimens of *Castilleja*, and hunted all over the place but could not find where they were to be found, but when a few mean plants were seen. I can not imagine the reason for its absence. - Any other flowers have been scarce this year and are much less than last year. - past cold late winter has had something to do with it.

Went to the shore where the shore was started in the morning. Found a lot of the Harlequin's Harlequin. The birds were perfectly horrible & I determined never to go near that region again until the season is over. Found a great lot of nests, but the young of the season is over, and many nests have been taken.

Nests 17 - Eggs 28 - Taken 7 -
The wild figs are in bloom now and many birds are near where they were growing to drink in the honey. - Strawberries are beginning to come and become very important in the diet.

The weather is very dry and the ground is like a ball of burnt cotton. There must be big forest fires somewhere. - Turtle mashing began today!

July 1"

Went out with Bert. Wheeler on another egg tramp. Tried to go to Side again. -

July 1 - Eggs 23 - Taken 13.

Went out with Bert. Wheeler on another egg tramp. We let her alone, as a vicious looking specimen of the genus *Horus* was interestedly watching our every movement. -

Amused ourselves by yanking an old frog out of the mud with a bit of red flannel tied to a piece of wire. He did not seem capable of learning by experience, or we found it impossible to resist temptation & we caught him as often as we pleased. - We couldn't have had more fun if the frog had been full of bugs.

July 4"

Busied myself fixing up a new herbarium. It is a little conceit of my own, just to write on the page opposite each flower its name, class, order, meaning, properties, traditions &c. and any history I may find concerning it. - I think I ought to get a pretty good insight into botany this summer - it is growing. Father came over got a lot of a herbarium made for Dr. S. Elliot, mostly all Staten Island plants and I am gradually dusting them & getting them in order. When I get them indexed I guess I will have a pretty fair herbarium and know something of plants, at least Staten Island ones. -

July 26"

Went out with my net on a cruise through the swamps and along the brooks. - Scooped some fish for my aquarium, and botanized amongst the water plants and grasses. - Was astonished to see how many more plants & flowers I could find today simply because I knew more about them & intended carefully to find more than I did last year. Spent whole of forenoon looking for them. I had some of the most beautiful ones I have found by either net or hand.

Oct. 3"

This is the last day of my long summer vacation. - I have allowed myself to work as it were, or rather to flower, and have done quite an appreciable amount of work in botany. It has given me considerable satisfaction, and I think that I have pretty well mastered our local botany, and the general principles of the science. -

Oct. 9"

Got up at early dawn this morning and went out with my gun. - Chased three wild pigeons around the pine trees back of Clove Lake and finally succeeded in bagging two of them. - As I was by the little pond on the Prentice farm I saw some big fish in the shallow water & succeeded in shooting the head off one. Found it to be a sucker. - Got the first fringed gentian & the gentian of *Antennaria* with their long blue eyelashes. They seem to grow as well in the swamp as on the hill top. -

Oct. 23"

Took a trip to New Dorp with Bert Wheeler. - Nat. Britton met us and we went up through the *Agave* on a hunt for nuts. - I never before knew that there were so many way back hickories available for use on the Island. We worked pretty hard and got a big meal sack full. Then we attacked the chestnuts. - When we could no longer find a bushel of hickories & a peck of chestnuts. - It was a fine day and very successful. - We have apparently found quite a valuable addition to our Staten Island fellows in Nat. Britton. -

Oct. 30"

It was a lowering this morning, one of those days that when these specks of "where the clouds brood for days together on the hill, as if the seasons were lying in mourning for the departure of summer". - Started out on tramp anyway. - Went by the brook leading into Clove Lake and saw two fine trout. - One of them seemed rather nice for (one of)

Oct. 31" (cont'd)

and succeeded in killing it with a stick. When I came to examine it I found it has just swallowed a big lizard which was partly sticking out of its throat. - Then I went to work after the other one, and chased it up stream until I got it in a good place & dammed the stream until my return. - Went up on Ocean Terrace. Got the first porcupine of the season, along the Main Road, and secured a bag full of chestnuts. - Then it began to rain & a thick fog also joined in the fight. I knew I could not get home dry so I stayed out & picked up more chestnuts. - Found a number of the very big ones, some with a thick down, from my tree near the Hoag Hill House. - I watched the rills of water running down the trees. - how it flows in the deepest bark, or takes some particular and well defined track along a branch until it reaches a junction of place, and then drips or runs to the ground. - That it takes the same route every time may be seen, where the ground is bare, by the depression, or well washed soil underneath. - Similarly, in running down a tree trunk there seem to be certain large streams that always take the same track and have their roots in the soil at the foot. - I looked for my imprisoned brook on the way home, but the brook was a raging torrent and a dam was nowhere. -

Oct. 31"

This has been a curious day - a succession of sun & squalls from morning to night. - Went out for a walk in afternoon and got the last remnants of flowers. - The blooming for the year is now at an end. The progress I have made has astonished me & I have been led on step by step so unconsciously that I hardly appreciated all I had accomplished. - I only regret that my study was not begun more thoroughly and at an earlier date. However, I have laid a good foundation to begin earnest work on next year.

Nov. 2"

Went out with Jack. Rimmer, determined to skin my paper shelled hickory tree on Ocean Terrace, and we did it. We worked until about 4 o'clock, shelling our pile, and the bag full that we brought home was a sight to behold. - It had a most curious and amusing experience with a hawk. - It had evidently not seen us, as we sat on the slope of a hillock, and my first intimation of anything out of the ordinary, was seeing a most peculiar expression of amazement & horror spread over Jack's face. - My back was to the brow of the hill & Jack was facing me. - I turned around in an instant, expecting nothing less than to see a mad bull charging down on us; but there was - hawk, sailing slowly over the brow of the hill & it evidently did not see us until it was within a few feet of us, but when we did burst upon its vision it just put on its patent air brakes and climbed right up for other spheres. - It was a badly frightened hawk. -

Nov. 13"

I shall long remember this as a perfect day! I started out with the intention of laying in a stock of acorns for my squirrel. - Took along the top of Ocean Terrace, down through Blood Root Valley, and finally through the woods near the Poor House. - It didn't feel like an Autumn day - it was like Spring & the grasshoppers, butterflies and other living things, that I thought had been driven in or killed by the frost, were out again as lively as ever. I wasn't in a mood for making a business of getting nuts, and I was pushing aside the leaves in a desultory manner when I spied a green leaf - I knew in a moment what it was. Wintergreen! For the first time, in all the years I have tramped through the woods, I found that plant, and I gathered a big bunch and came home happy. - I believe that there are infinite possibilities yet in the botany of Staten Island, and much to be discovered. I was very much amused at a cat which was walking along

Nov. 13" (continued).

My cat was in a state of mind over a cat. I was standing
 - - - - - read about two or three hundred feet off, and
 threw a stone in the direction of the cat. It must have
 seen the coming shadow ~~before~~ before the stone fell to
 the ground, for it suddenly looked up, following the stone
 with its eyes and made a spring for it when it dropped. -
 I repeated the move five or six times and the cat performed
 her part of the program, until finally she seemed to
 imagine there was something in coming about it, made
 a final jump, stuck her tail up in the air and made
 straight for a neighboring farm house. - She probably
 thought the stones were flying birds. -

Dec. 7"

I have always known that there was a fine herbarium up
 at Columbia College somewhere, so today Mr. Britton and
 myself determined to ferret ~~that~~ ^{it} out & see it. It did my
 heart good to see the collection - thousands of specimens
 all in order and under the care of an antiquated fellow
 named Leroy. - I hope to spend many an hour there &
 solve some knotty points ~~that~~ ^{we} have been bothering me.

Dec. 20"

Noticed a peculiar phenomenon today. - The wind was
 East, the temperature very low, and the sky perfectly
 clear, but there was a constant fall of fine snow, or
 rather the air was full of it. - I suppose it was merely
 the congealing of the moist wind off the water. - It was
 the first time I had ever seen snow without a cloud in the sky,
 and there was quite an appreciable amount of it. -

Dec. 31"

Went out a walk in spite of bad weather & picked a large "winter bouquet"
 of Hodgeya, Eranthis, Crinum, Pinks, Pigeon, Holly, Heuchera & other bright things, that will keep fresh
 for a long time in the house. -

April 1st

Went out in the expectation of finding the first flowers and ~~was not disappointed~~. Near the cave I found none, but in blood root valley they were in full bloom. I like to feel that I am the first one to see them - it gives me a sense of proprietorship. It is needless to add that the flowers were the liverwort. I must get my botanical traps in order now, in contemplation of some good work this year. -

April 11th

Nat. Britton came up to College today with a sprig of trailing arbutus, and the startling information that he knew a place on the south side where it grows in plenty! This drove me wild and I will not rest until I get a chance to see it for myself. -

One of the boys at College, named Crow, electrified me today by hauling a small garter snake out of his pocket and I soon found that it made quite an amusing pet. I must confess that my natural aversion to snakes was hard to overcome, but I soon got used to it and made up my mind that snakes should be my next subject for investigation. -

April 15th

Went down the Railroad on the 6 o'clock train. Met Nat. Britton and we got off at Huguenot station and started on a hunt after trailing arbutus. We struck it on the side of a pond near the shore and at last I was gratified at seeing it growing in its natural habitat, and a charming sight it was. I knew of another pond not far away, and, reasoning from analogy, concluded that there must also be some there, so we explored it and found our surmises correct. I have felt more or less disgusted with myself to think that this plant has been here and yet I knew nothing of it until informed by others, and not until the best of it had evidently been destroyed. I am sure that there must be more of it to be found by careful search. -

April 21st

Nat Britton and myself went in to the College Herbarium this afternoon and had quite a long confab. with old Leroy. He was more communicative than before and I guess he begins to think that we are more or less in earnest. I think that Nat. is going to make a good botanist and will prove to be a valuable friend to me.

April 22nd

Went out to Bloodroot Valley to see if I could find the bloodroot in bloom. Found the whole of the steep bank-side just white with it. a beautiful sight. I think that this flower takes the palm for delicate purity, and it is so fragile and evanescent. It does not bear handling like the arbutus. Nat. Britton came along while I was in the height of my ecstasy and I was pleased to see how enthusiastic he was. It was his first introduction to the scene and he said he had no idea such a charming place existed on the Island. It caused me to find someone who could cover the point of the occasion with me. In one of the pine trees close by I found the first nest of the season, a crow's, with four eggs, which I took in the hope that they might be a fish crow's but they turned out to be only common ones.

April 24th

Went out on a tramp with Berk & Wheeler. We passed by the tree that had a hawk's nest in on May 30th 1893 and I thought that the nest looked more or less renovated, with a substantial appearance of down on the edges, and sure enough there was the old bird sitting on it. Climbed up and secured two eggs.

May -

Nat. Britton and I got away from college early and came home in the 12 o'clock boat. After lunch we started out for a tramp across to New York. In the way I was able to show him a number

May 4 (continued)

of plants that were new to him. - Saw several crow nests, a couple of suckers in the brook and two night hawks in the under brush on Ocean Terrace. - Nat also got some shells that he seemed to be interested in in one of the springs. - I walked over as far as Toad Hill and then just back home.

May 26th

Went out on a routine tramp with Bert Wheeler. - Struck for Mariners Harbor, then across the Island to the hills and back by way of Bloodroot Valley. - Did some good work amongst the plants and I can note down some red *Viola pedata*, yellow *Castilleja coccinea*, *Clematis ochroleuca*, *Orchis spectabilis* and wildginger. -

May 21st

While I was at work this afternoon Will came in and gave an account of a strange flower that he had seen in quantity not near Watchogue. From his description I concluded it must be *Cyperipedium*, so I got right in to his carriage with him and he drove out to a pine grove in the sandy soil back of Mariners Harbor and sure enough there was *Cyperipedium acule* in abundance. - He used to tell me how he found it years ago in the woods near the Paper Factory & I can just remember seeing him diggin up one of the plants with its big broad leaves, but I never saw the flower until today.

May 27th

Went down to Huguenot in the 8 train with Bert Wheeler. - Nat Britton met us at New Dorp and we all three proceeded to scour the south side. - We kept tacking from the shore up to the railroad and back again and scooped in quite a respectable score of bird's eggs and plants. - Stumbled into a magnolia bush near Coney Island. - In the return home

May 27 (continued)

Bert. & I determined to locate a tall tree on the top of Ocean Terrace that is famous for its height and which we had often used as a land-mark from the Lower Bay. We made our calculations, got our lines settled, and then plunged into the woods and under brush. — It was no easy matter but we found it at last and it certainly is a beauty — a tall straight hickory towering high above the rest of the forest. — As we climbed up the side of the Terrace not far from the Right house we came across an old black walnut tree, dead, but a fine old specimen for all that. — It measured 13 ft in circumference and must have been one of Staten Island's original inhabitants. — We got home about quarter to nine P. M.

June 10

Went down the railroad with Nat. & Bert. — Had quite a satisfactory botanical day, but the special object of my investigation was the magnolia swamp at Gifford's. Sure enough the trees were in full bloom and I secured all I could carry home. —

June 12

Went down to New Drop and took a tramp over the meadows with Nat. — Turtle mashing began today! — The mosquitoes were so bad that I had to leave Nat. and put for the high ground. — Nat. is making such headway in botany that I shall have to keep myself up to the mark or he'll be ahead of me, in spite of my head start. —

June 14

Spent most of the day in the woods at Valley. — Only wish I were a poet I would put the place into words or if a painter I would paint it. — For it is not to be forgotten that in the valley of the Hudson the vegetation is quite different from the rest of the island. —

June 15th

Went out a drive with Will. to the sandy regions around Watchogue. (I have passed some a mile. I thought I noticed the odor of magnolia, some magnolia trees single and some in small groups. I have seen some of them here before.

June 16th

Went on a tramp with Berth. over in the region of Chelsea & Watchogue. The weather was red hot & the mosquitoes almost unbearable, so I went out with me after 10. - One only way of getting me comfort was by appropriating a row boat in the creek and undressing out in mid stream. - Mosquitoes fairly make me sick! - Made a haul on the magnolias. -

July 24th

Took a tramp over towards the Porrtowne. - Scooped in quite a good botanical score, including *Tipularia discolor*! There seems to be quite a quantity of it in the web hollows on Ocean Terrace and from the spikes of flowers. - I see that Gray calls it "rare", so I have apparently made quite a find. Made a special note of it in my notebook locality and secured some of the flowers.

August 20th

Made out my eggging statistics for the season and find them to look up:

Nests found	45
Eggs	128
" taken	33

I find that my score is not as large as usual, but I attribute this to the increased attention I have given to botany. In looking back over my records I see instead of "score" or "many nests" "score" or "a good botanical score" and I must say that I think even when I had the nesting in a little more success than the common housewife that my plants have done - I think I have made more success in botany than in eggging.

Aug. 22nd

Had Nat. Britton over at the house all day and we went over a number of botanical specimens together. He is a worthy rival now in the botanical line & I find that we can give one many points. Made a rough estimate of my herbarium and find that I have about 600 species -

Sept. 1st

Took a walk to the Charleston Botanical Garden. The Carolina is just a few miles from the city. The prize collection of the Horticultural Society is ~~quite~~ a fine collection of 50 native plants, fresh cut. - I think it is very fine.

Sept. 16th

Now we are going to collect "native plants" for the prize collection. Made a beginning anyway.

Sept. 18th

Made another attempt to collect the requisite 50 species of plants and almost completed the lot. One more day's collecting ought to suffice.

There is a very remarkable phenomenon today - nearly all the crabs in the garden had a coating of salt on them, doubtless the salt that was carried from the water in our yesterday's East storm. - A day or two of continuous storm like that must transport quite an appreciable amount of salt to the land.

Sept. 19th

Spent the morning in revisiting the collection of botanical specimens. Turned up quite a good botanical rarity or two. *Salvia scaberrima*! - Went out to the garden in afternoon, and with Mr. Norton's help collected a number of plants in order. Found mostly the young ones. The collection of plants was not very large. The old ones were mostly the same. Mr. Norton told me on the back and told me a few more things.

Sept. 20"

Went to the Botanical Garden in afternoon and sauntered up to my little exhibit with an eager eye. I saw many good things. —
 *** there was a pleasure in it with the award: "First premium for best collection of native plants". — I think it pleased Mr. Chilton more than it did me.

Sept. 21"

Went on quite a respectable sized tramp over in the vicinity of the Poor House. — Got some new ferns: Woodwardia virginiana, Botrychium dissectum, and Aspidium acrostichoides, var. incisum. — Caught quite a promising little snake and brought him home to keep, but the crowd of children, where it had been in the house, kept him at bay.

Oct. 3rd

Came down from College in the middle of the day with Nat. and took him over to Stone Lake on his way home. — On my way back, just alongside the Turnpike near Silver Lake, I saw some delicate little plants at my feet and found it to be wild thyme! Not much of a patch, but enough for a specimen or two and to spare, and in full bloom too. —

Oct. 4th

Went on our annual hickory nut hunt — Nat. & Britten & I. — Raided the trees from Richmond up through the valley past Egbertville. — Got a good pile. —

Oct. 5th

Had another day's walking with Nat. around Egbertville. — Brought home a little snake, just for "green". —

Oct. 16th

Went to the Botanical Garden in afternoon and sauntered up to my little exhibit with an eager eye. I saw many good things. —
 *** there was a pleasure in it with the award: "First premium for best collection of native plants". — I think it pleased Mr. Chilton more than it did me.

Oct 28"

Went down to New Dorp and met Nat. - Walked up to Court House and did quite a good morning's botany in the woods. A miserable drizzle of rain and hail drove us in about the middle of the day. I collected with the most extraordinary *corruata* rats, as it seems to be something permanent we have called it *corruata*, var. *corruata*, B. & H. - It was growing on a tree I noticed a strange looking excrescence, like a knot of bark and upon examination found it to be a heavy bat, hibernating, with its head down, and wrapped up tight & close. It so nearly resembled the grayish brown bark as to almost escape my notice. - Walked home over Ocean Terrace - in a ravine near the Road Hill Road found several bushes of the "Witch Hazel" in full bloom. - The first time I have ever seen it with delight to me.

Nov. 4"

Met Nat. at New Dorp and we went down to Chinaball. Tramped cross country all the way home. - Took some roots of *Trailing Arbutus* up to Bloodrock Valley and planted them in the hopes of being able to start a new locality. - Up at the head of the valley I struck a most peculiar form of *Aspidium acrostichoides*, with all the pinnae fertile on some of the fronds! - Observed a monster grape vine in the valley near Egbertine and it shows a circumference of 2 1/2 inches.

Nov. 11"

Went down to see Nat. in morning and we went to the beach. - Took some plants at places we were much about. - Took a boat to the beach in afternoon and collected plants. - Found *Aspidium*, *Asplenium*, *Phlox*, *Menyanthes* &c. - Picked up, on the beach, a paper and dated 1795, which is all that is left of it.

1876

Nov. 18

went out on a tramp around all my sheltered woods and did some botanizing amongst the ferns, mosses &c. - I must say I slide the creptogams a bit. - Brought back some *Narscantha polymorpha*, *Solignum*, and the last few remnants of golden rods, asters, erigeron, achillea, brunella and a strawberry. - I presume this is a good-bye to botanizing for the season. -

Dec. 1

Took a little stroll out to the ponds in afternoon and as I meandered down the brook that crosses Prentice's farm I saw a large muskrat in the brook. - In the excitement of the chase I struck it with a stick and killed it. - After the deed was done I picked myself up my stick & got decidedly sore. -

Jan 13th

Snow ankle deep. - Went in a tramp on purpose to amuse myself with tracking the foot prints of squirrels, rabbits, mice & birds in the snow. - These tracks would make interesting stories, I imagine, could their histories be written out. - I am fairly astonished to see the large number of four footed animals that must be tracking around on their errands of life, and yet how seldom we ever see them. - I think they must do nearly all their walking at night. -

Feb. 9th

Went a tramp in afternoon to clear my head after the College examinations. - The snow was heavily drifted in places, near Clove Lake, fairly overtopping the small saplings and fences. - In the woods I succeeded in getting quite a bouquet of green *Lycopodium*, bronze *Botrychium*, scarlet *Mitchella* and other nice objects. The bunch of *Lycopodium* and *Mitchella* that I collected last October is still fresh and green in its tumbler of water and the *Mitchella* has even grown a little. -

Mr. Churton says that there is another prize, offered by Peter Henderson, of \$50.00, for the best collection of 500 dried native plants, at the next Autumn meeting of the Horticultural Society. - Of course he wants me to try for it, and I rather guess I will. -

Feb. 13th

Took the train in morning for Unadilla. - Started at the nearest training arbutus locality and gradually worked my way down towards Duttonville. Cut a witch-hazel stick for a divining rod and started on to see what it would do for me. It serves chiefly to test the ice on the ponds that I crossed. - When I got to the creek at Prince's Bay I found evidence of such quantities of arbutus, on the banksides at both sides, that the other localities sink into insignificance. It seemed to grow away, in company with *Kalmia latifolia*. Followed the creek down to Pleasant Plains and found them all the way

Feb. 13" (continued)

along. — I do not feel afraid of its extermination now. — Tramped all the way home. — about a 20 mile jaunt today I guess. — Passing over from Eltingville to Richmond I was struck by a new feature, exceedingly pleasing to the eye, namely a field of trailing blackberry vines, thickly matted and with a wealth of rich bronze colored leaves that fairly glowed in the winter suns. —

Mch. 13"

Nat. Britton thought to get ahead of me in the wild flower question today and brought up some *Stimulans vulgaris* in full bloom! I do not count it as a native foreigner, otherwise I could retort by showing chickweed in bloom before this date. — Wait until the natives begin to show, and then see who gets them first!

Mch. 24"

Went out to Bloodroot Valley and found the Liverwort in full bloom. It was unexpected & I almost tumbled down the bank into the bed of the brook in my excitement & joy. — Furthermore I found that the bunch of trailing arbutus which I had planted there had lived through the winter and was looking in good shape. — On the home track I kept stumbling across snakes all the time, and finally I came upon a very good humored garter snake and carried him home to have some fun with. —

Mch. 26"

Had a great time with my snake, up at College and on the boat. Almost without exception people are afraid of it, even when they see me handle it with perfect impunity. — I could vacate the alcove of the laboratory or clear a bench on the boat in double quick time by merely taking out the little reptile & letting him show his face. — It is strange what an instinctive aversion we all have for snakes. Even I, although I handle this one freely, do like them any the more for it, and have to struggle at times with a feeling of timidity. —

April 2nd

Went down to Francis Bay with Nat. Hilton, on our arbutus hunt. Found further extensions to our former known localities, and the only one nearly to be considered as new & variable. - Only one or two blossoms were seen, but none. - Rain nearly all the time & we were pretty well soaked. On the boat my branch of flower attracted considerable attention and one lady actually sent her little girl over to me to know if I would sell some! I looked pretty much and bedraggled - I suppose she thought I would be glad to sell a penny. -

April 7th

Went down to Pleasant Plains with Nat. - Visited all our arbutus localities, and didn't succeed in getting much in blossom. - Tramped home & took in Bloodroot Valley on the way. - Found the first bloodroot blossoms out. -

April 14th

Went out with Nat. almost purposely to take in Bloodroot Valley. Found the banksides carpeted with the flowers and brought home a number of the roots to plant in the garden. - I do not see why it would not make a splendid garden flower. - Came across a mile or so of Popularia - the dark green leaves with their purple under surfaces are conspicuous objects wherever they show through the network of dead leaves on the ground. - Brought home about 12 different species of flowers today and made the beginning of the proposed collection of 500. - I'll just that thing through if I have to study up on the woods and grasses to do it. - I do not yet that \$50. or prize I will be no fault of mine! -

April 21st

Went down to Francis Bay and getting in a fine lot of arbutus. Reasoning by analogy I found the field arbutus that I made several and specimens of some have been seen. - and that this for my private use. - I think I have seen the first that has been found since it was first seen in 1876. - I only hope you are not the same old story. - I have to make some more.

Apr. 25th

Brought Sheldon down from Brooklyn this morning and we went out for tramp after nests. - It was raining dreadfully, but we went to the woods and found several crows nests, but the trees were too wet and slippery to climb. I have about 40 plants collected already - a good beginning for the contemplated 500. -

May 5th

Went on quite a long tramp with Sheldon. Took over towards the river and then right across the river to the house. Got a couple of crows nests and had to do some pretty tough climbing. My botanical score is climbing up in a hurry now and the first 100 will soon be reached. -

May 31st

There is a visitation of 17 year locusts upon us and they are coming up from the ground by thousands, leaving their queer little split jackets attached to the trees & fences everywhere. - This is the first visitation since my memory was worth anything and I am wondering where I shall be & what I shall be doing when they show themselves. -

June 8th

Went down to Gifford's with Nat. Came back home over Ocean Terrace & through Blooming Valley. - I think it looked about as it has today - the fresh new foliage, swollen brook & bright flowers made as pretty a picture as you often see. - It would have been a fine day to see the locusts, if for nothing else. - Their numbers are incredible. In some places their noise is so loud that I could only compare it to a moving machine in constant motion. - The trees shook as if they were alive, with the commotion of the insects, and the dead ones lay in heaps & clumps under them. -

Have collected some 200 plants this far - almost half the way to 500, and they are rising in good shape. -

June 20" -----
Went out with old man Charlton. - Explored Barrett's Nurseries and vicinity. - Charlton is very much interested in my trial for the Alexander-Henderson prize and keeps observing me on. -

June 23"
Took a pretty big tramp over through Willows Brook and by the Poor House. - I was more than ever struck today by the sad drooping appearance of the woods, owing to the brown broken ends of the branches, where the locusts have bitten & killed them. - In places the ground is strewn with the dead branches, broken off by the wind. -

June 28"
Went out for a short tramp, mostly with the idea of collecting Halimolobos in the Clow Lake swamps. - While I was grubbing around stumbled on some plants of *Pogonia ophioglossoides*. - I began to dance for joy, and suddenly discovered, where I had trampled the grass & weeds down, the unmistakable leaves of *Prosera rotundifolia*! Two such finds as this almost drove me wild & I didn't wait for anything else but just put for home to glow over them. -

June 29"
Had a magnificent meteor night about 10.30 o'clock. - I first saw a light bluish light beginning to diffuse over everything and then a magnificent meteor flashed across the N.W. heavens with a dazzling white light. - It was as fine a show of the kind as I ever saw. -

July 2"
Took a short tramp in morning with no very definite idea where to go, but finally chose Ellingville. - Walked back along the N.W. to Siffert's and found another patch of *maquettia* which yielded well. - Came home through Blindbrook Valley, but the mosquitoes spoiled everything & it was impossible to see the best scenery & see the same landscape at the same time. -

July 19th

Took a tramp, intent on adding to my 500 plants. - Made an addition of about 15 more. - Attended to my dried specimens in afternoon. It takes as much time after I get them home as it does to collect them. - Analyzing, writing labels, changing dryers &c. - Not a single one is mounted up yet either. - I imagine I shall have my hands full to get this collection in proper order. -

July 26th

Busied myself mounting plants from about 5 A. M. until 5 P. M. - It is pretty slow work, though. -

July 28th

Made a special trip to Ocean Terrace this morning to look for *Tipularia* in bloom. - Found two fine spikes of flowers at my locality, and also came across two other new orchidaceous plants. -

Spent the afternoon mounting plants. -

Aug. 6th

Went down to visit Mr. Townsend, at Clifton, and we took a tramp over a portion of the Island that was entirely new to me. - I should not be surprised if it would yield several new plants, as I found *Coralorhiza multiflora* first thing, without any search, besides quite a respectable score of other plants. -

Aug. 21st

Worked away on my plants, as I have been doing lately, and today succeeded in mounting the 500th species and a few over! - A big job well done!

Aug. 26th

Made a recount of my mounted plants and find that I am yet 17 short of the 500, so there is still a little work to be done. - Even if no other good comes of all this work I will at least have the nucleus of a good S. P. herbarium to build on. -

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Sept. 9"

Went in to see old man Charlton this morning and was very much pleased to find that he had succeeded in growing the white *Lobelia siphylitica* that I collected last September, and that it had come out with pure white flowers again. - I had almost forgotten the fact that he had broken the root off my specimen, while it was on show at the Horticultural Exhibition, saying that he would take it home and plant it.

Sept. 29"

Was a lucky nut racket with Nat. Britton. - We struck one tree our *Californica* that yielded us nearly as many as the entire yield of last year. - I find that Nat. has been going heavily into the grasses & sedges, and I must push myself to catch up with him. -

Oct. 8"

Received a present of a small box of ripe strawberries, from Miss Nettie Sprague, which were picked in their garden at West New Brighton yesterday. - I wonder what this late fruiting means?

Oct. 12"

Went in to hold a consultation with old Leroy at the College Herbarium this afternoon and he informed me that I had been elected a member of the "Torrey Botanical Club"! He also gave me a specimen of *Ceratophyllum* which he said was rare in fruit. - I imagine I can find that same plant on Staten Island. -

Oct. 13"

Took a big tramp. - Got with a bunch of wintergreen, with berries on, and was very much astonished to find a patch of *Mitchella* with both ripe berries & flowers on. - Dredged around in the ponds in the Rensselaer Valley and sure enough secured plenty of *Ceratophyllum demersum*, and with fruit in abundance. - *Fibularia* leaves began to show thick now & I found it in abundance. - Collected a large number of mushrooms on a hillside near Pikesville, Md. -

Oct. 30"

Attended my first meeting of the Torrey Botanical Club and enrolled myself as a member. Found Nat. Britton, Mr. Chittenden and Mr. Wright there, so Staten Island was well represented. - Nat. & I appeared like boys amongst the old gray heads that compose the Club, but I soon found that I was well enough informed in a general way to chat with most of those that were there & when I trotted out some of the *Tipularia* leaves I was stamped as a botanist at once. - After the meeting we had a spread of coffee & cakes & discussed botanical matters informally until 10.45 o'clock.

Nov. 4"

I was walking around the outskirts of Tottenville this afternoon in an aimless sort of a way when something caught my eye amongst the grass in a roadside gutter and it proved to be a *Lycopodium* that was new to me. It was growing in company with *Gentiana Saponaria* - was turned out to be *L. incurvatum* - another important find for our S. I. flora.

Nov. 17"

Went out to obtain my Winter bouquet of *Bolochium*, *Lycopodium*, *Chimaphila*, *Mitchella*, *Goodenya* &c. - Also made a large bouquet of young wild cherry trees. They seem to grow up in great abundance under the shade and protection of cedar tree. - The young ones of about 6 in. in height retain their leaves, either green, bronzed, or bright red & yellow, in fine shapes. - I saw a few of the last remaining blooms of *Asters* and *Solidago*.

as some of animals are very amusing at times & I watched a chicken today whose antics puzzled me at first. It was racing around in most ridiculous and erratic manner, as if scarce, and then stopping as if to think over something. - I found the cause to be a poor toad which the chicken had picked up & evidently did not know how to dispose of. - I guess it was a pretty good chicken & rather heavy toad.

Dec. 4"

Reaped the reward of my labors today! - Took my herbarium of 500 native plants to the Horticultural Societies' meeting & found only one other collection that is complete against mine. It was by a young man named Hexamer, from Newcastle, N.Y. and the specimens were not mounted, besides containing a number of materialized plants. - I made up my mind that the prize was mine & sure enough it was so awarded! Now my work is paid for. - Glory has been added to my name & \$50.00 in money is in my prospective possession. Henderson seemed pleased & Davidson intimated that if I ever wanted to dispose of the collection there was an offer ready. - I think though that I will keep it, add to it, and finally make as complete a Staten Island herbarium as possible. - I know of at least 700 species of flowering plants on Staten Island now. -

Dec. 25"

This has been a most peculiar Christmas day. - Father & I took a walk & we needed no overcoats. - Dandelions, chickweed, periwinkle & English violets are all in blossom and the roads are dry and dusty like Summer. -

Dec. 24"

Such delightful warm weather that I strolled out to Clove Lake & collected some more material for a Winter bouquet. - The leaves of evergreen plants are not so green & fresh looking as they usually are however. - I imagine because they have had no covering of snow since the frosts began. -

Just before going to the South side of the old meat & ice house, I enjoyed a most luxurious sun bath. - I know of no place where the Winter sunshine seems to fall so warm and so softly as against the sides of these buildings and on the tan bark & sawdust adjacent. -

Mch. 10th

Took advantage of a beautiful Spring day and went on a tramp up to Mount Vernon. — A few flowers in bloom and wasn't disappointed. — liver or car. — to time today, — earlier than I have ever before found it I believe! — Everything seen bright & cheerful — the day was perfect — butterflies, bees & other insects were flying around, and as I passed over rocks and stones there came out the lizards & snakes from their winter beds, where they had been sleeping their long sleep since last autumn. — The maples, alders, skunk cabbage, & chickweed are all pushing out their blossoms in a welcome to the beautiful early season. —

I can now let my "Winter Bouquet" of *Mitchella* & *Lycopodium* etc. go — the Spring flowers will take their place and continue the endless chain of bright objects with which I have found it so pleasant to surround myself.

Mch. 24th

Walked down to Vanderbilt's Landing this morning with the intention of taking the 9 o'clock train, but there wasn't any so I got mad and started down the track on a tramp. — Made four hours — 1 hr. and Eltingville half an hour later. — Arrived at the cross road between Prince's Bay and Pleasant Plains in just two hours from the time I left Vanderbilt's Landing. — Found quite a lot of arbutus in bloom and brought a good sized bunch home with me on the 11 train. —

April 13th

Had a Torrey Club field day down at Prince's Bay. A few of us also got off at New Dorp on the way back. — I picked them on Ocean Terrace & into the Clove Valley, passing through Island Creek Valley on the way. — All hands seemed pleased. — I found that I could impart as well as receive considerable information.

April 18th (Continued.)

(All my localities were good and I found the same
distance than last year before I could find a plethora
of choice flowers. - Altogether it was certainly a very
successful day & I think Staten Island did itself
proud. -

April 19th

Thought I would take a little trip beyond our county so
went over to Perth Amboy with Gardiner Sheldon and
two of his freshman friends. - I didn't know anything
about the place but we found a red shouldered hawk's
nest with three eggs just hatching. - Next came a fish
crow's with 3 & finally a common crow's with 5. - All the
eggs were quite fresh and we considered the day a com-
plete success. -

Botanically I had good luck also, for I found a big
patch of *Podophyllium peltatum* not yet in bloom, and
the woods were just crammed full of wintergreen. -

April 22nd

Took a tramp with Sheldon again, as we had such good
luck last time. - We tried the Bulls Head & Springville
locality, and gathered in the usual red shouldered hawk's
nest with three eggs and a crow's with five! - Either I
am very lucky in regard to these hawks or else they
are astonishingly common. I certainly have managed
to get a nest whenever I started in with the intention
of finding one. -

April 24th

I have been lately to see the thriving
trade that certain unscrupulous persons have in making
icing branches. - Liquid ammonia under the name of "arti-
ficial water" - is hawked on the streets in the city, and you can
see it in lots of the business windows down town, standing in vessels
of water so as to force it into blossom! - My only regret is

April 23" (continued)

It is too late to the mutilation of so many of our Staten Island trees, in order to supply the material! — I do not regret seeing people victimized, especially those who live on Staten Island, but I do regret that they should not know of it. People who can pass such a thing by as a state of nature without notice, merely because it is so common, deserve to be cheated when they are told it under the solemn assurance that it has, been improved and will blossom out with beautiful white flowers by keeping in water for a short time!

April 27"

In spite of a heavy fog and some rain went out on a tramp along Ocean Terrace and through Bloodroot Valley. Found several important plants, amongst them being *Thalictrum divicarin* and *Lycopodium clavatum*. — Walking across a field I stumbled on a turkey's nest with one egg in it. — Climbed up to a crow's nest and found young ones already. — Got soaking wet by the time I reached home. —

April 30"

Attended the Torrey Club meeting tonight. — I am gaining more confidence in myself all the time I find. — So in my old "gray" heads used to overawe me, but I am gradually finding out that I can impart more or less interesting matter, especially in regard to rare or interesting plant localities, and I am not only tolerated but listened to with interest. — When I mentioned some of my recent finds I carried the crowd by storm and they forthwith made me arrange to pilot them on a trip next Saturday. — I am beginning to believe that Nat. Britton and myself are no dead heads in the affairs of the Torrey Club, in fact Nat. has begun to take an active part in the business discussions. —

May 4"

Took the train down to New Dorf this morning in company with some of the Torrey Club members. — Piloted them over Toad Hill, securing *Cerastium nutans*, *P. oblongifolium* & *Clematis ochroleuca*. — Blooming Valley yielded *Orchis spectabilis* and then the neighborhood of Clove Lake furnished us with both the red and yellow *Castilleja occidentalis*. I think this day's tramp has made my reputation, for I found every plant that I had guaranteed, and plenty of them. —

May 11"

Had a very fine day's tramping with Nat. Britton. — We took the train that met the 6 boat from the City and went over to Perth Amboy. — Collected plenty of *Podophyllum* in full bloom. — Came across some *Narcissus* in the woods, evidently thrown out of some garden, and it was curious to note the degenerating effect of the wild surroundings, or perhaps I should say the vigorous effort of Nature to bring the plant back to what it originally was, namely a single instead of a double flower. In some of the flowers the parts were half stamens, half petals, & in others there was an anther in the summit of an aborted petal! An instructive lesson. — Came back to Tottenville in the 10 o'clock boat and hunted in the woods around there. Found a great deal that was new and interesting and was delighted. — Started on a tramp home about 1 o'clock & didn't let up much until we got to Siffords. There we made a detour to gather in some *Pinus mitis*, from the meadow in Crook's place, & *Poa verticillata*. — After Nat. left I started to force my way over Ocean Terrace by the light house. — I never undertook more difficult job. It is a new locality for me and beats all the rest of the Island for little swamps and thick underbrush. It was a hard fight, but I got home about 7.30 o'clock tired and satisfied. — As I came over Toad Hill Rd. I saw a hollow locust tree at a fence corner so let a piece of paper and peered in. There were three white eggs, that I could not reach! I was too late to do anything more & I had to leave them for the night. —

May 12"

Started out on horseback first thing this morning, equipped with a box of cotton & a long handled gravity spoon, determined to scoop the eggs that I saw yesterday in the hollow tree. When I looked into the hole there was a screech owl, and I was beside myself with joy. I poked the bird on one side, when, behold, there were my eggs of yesterday changed into little woolly owls! Well, I can only hope to have better luck next year.—

May 18"

Went in Torrey Club field day to Tenafly, N. J. — We tramped over to the Palisades & I gathered in a flora that was entirely new to me. — The main object of the search was *Cypripedium parviflorum*, and out of our company of ten I was the only one who found a single specimen! I begin to believe that I have a pretty quick botanical eye. —

May 30"

Had a hard all day's tramp. — Took along Ocean Terrace, down Bloodroot Valley, along Weisener's Hill and through unknown swamps & woods around Court House. — Came home through some new tracts of woodland back of the light house on Ocean Terrace. — The rain poured down steadily all afternoon & I was literally soaked through. I knew I could not get any better, so I plunged fearlessly through the swamps & bushes. — Amongst the many plants that I was fortunate enough to find for the first time were *Woodia obtusa* & *Trifolium procumbens* near Kellott's place and *Arabis Canadensis* & *Vicia tetrasperma* near Richmond.

June 8"

Started out on a tramp with no very definite object in view, and just as I got to Silver Lake met Willie Davis & Ernest Ledwith. They seemed so anxious to tramp with me, said they wouldn't bother & would go home just when I had them to, that I took them along. — They seemed very much pleased when I felt well.

June 8" (continued)

satisfied ... We roiled out a chipmunk and had an exciting chase, then we took Long Ocean Terrace & I showed them a number of big nests & finally I introduced them to Bloodroot Valley. — From there we went as far as Richmond Hill & then home. — The only find of any account was an Oven Bird's nest containing three eggs — one of them a cow bird's. It was a rather rainy wet day, but I think we were all pleased, so the weather didn't count. —

Aug. 26"

Nat. Britton has been here nearly all day with me and we made a bold plunge at the preliminaries of our proposed Catalogue of Staten Island wild flowers. — I wonder if this first earnest venture of ours will be a success? Already I find that my name must be recognized in a limited way in scientific circles, as I am constantly receiving circulars from museums, naturalists' agencies, etc. — Truly wish I had the time to attend to nothing else! —

Aug 27"

Took first train down to Tottenville in morning with Nat. Britton. — Scoured all around the place and ~~was~~ just awakening to the fact that there is ^{an} entirely new and unique section of the World for me down at that end of the Island. — Scooped in a score of about 30 new plants and my biggest find was *Lycopodium inundatum*. — Used up nearly all afternoon analyzing the specimens. —

Sept 3rd

Took early train down to Pleasant Plains in morning with Nat. Britton, walking over towards Rossville & back through Marsden. — Gathered in another good botanical score and tramped it all the way home. — I am only just beginning to appreciate what a big place Staten Island is and what a vast amount of unexplored territory it holds in trust for me. —

Sept. 22nd

While out driving this afternoon between Richmond & New Spring-
field, we crossed an old pear tree in full bloom. There were
many flowers to make the tree conspicuous. What can have
struck it?

Sept 30th

I was in a sort of philanthropic botanical humor tonight
by writing out a communication to my college
in sleep, relative to setting some new botanical trees. I wonder
how will you, my attention to a young spruce like me?

Oct. 10th

Mat. and I finished the manuscript of our S. D. Plant Cata-
logue today, so after we have read it over complete it can
go to the printer and our first literary venture will be
afloat!.

Feb 4th

Went through the quarries at Graniteville, on a tour of investigation and found good evidences of alacial action on the surface of the trap, but it is unfortunately completely covered, except in a few spots, with till material. The scratches & grooves can be plainly seen and the subject should be worked up more.

Feb. 15th

Took a long all day tramp. - Made straight from Port Richmond through Bull's Head & Springville & then across the Fresh Kills bridge. Skirted the water then as closely as practicable to Rossville and struck regions I had never traversed before. - Inspected brick and such like strata. Places. Walked through the lanes of Rossville & along to Kreischerville. - Struck the clay pits & was astonished at their extent. All around I kept coming across objects that were new to me & I am sure there is a rich field there, botanically, when the season opens. I was to loose myself, and finally, when I came led from an unknown tract of country, found myself at Woodrow. - Walked from there to the south & along the track to Ellingdale. Cut cross lots from there to Richmond and thence by way of Springville home. - To remember the day cut a 'fine' stick of holly near Richmond, which I must prepare in the most approved style. - Arrived home about 5.30 o'clock perfectly tired as - by the day's journey and the beautiful weather which accompanied me.

My love for Staten Island grows stronger every year and almost every tramp is a revelation to me. I know that I could never be contented anywhere else - my home will always be here. I do not wonder at people becoming tired of the Is and who never go outside the villages and scarcely know anything about the roads than those between their own houses and the boat. The beauty of the Island will never be due to its artificial appendages, but to its natural aspect which man has failed to alter and which I am every day becoming more and more learning to appreciate.

Feb. 25"

Received our printed copies of the "Flora of Richmond Co." today and
~~very~~ ^{very} ~~much~~ little pamphlet it makes. It seems remarkably
 free from errors and a little ~~small~~ ^{small} page will cover all
 this. - Made out a list of names to which complimentary copies
 are to be sent and so our little work is launched. -

Mar. 1"

Started on a tramp, with the Princes Bay Lighthouse as my objective
 point. - I suspected that the ^{comparative} mild Winter might have forced
 the arbutus a little, so searched carefully and sure enough
 found the buds well advanced and one in full bloom. Could
 find no more and I guess this was only an accidental one
 and was hardly the real first flower of the
 season. It is away ahead of any other year, and if this Febru-
 ary had only had 29 days in it instead of 28 I should have
 been able to say that I had gathered Trailing Arbutus in full
 bloom on Staten Island in February! -

Mar. 13"

Last night my "chipmunk" awoke me by making a most pec-
 uliar "chuck, chuck" noise. It became a nuisance and I
 finally had to put the cage out of the room and cover it with an
 overcoat, but even then he kept it up. - I'd like to know what
 it meant.

Mar. 14"

Made an investigation of Bloodroot Valley this morning, in the
 hopes of finding Hepatica in bloom, but was disappointed. Found
 a nice patch of Wintergreen and a quantity of Tipularia. The
 Skunk Cabbage, Chickweed & Red Maple are all showing their
 flowers in full.

Mar. 15"

Started out determined to accomplish a big tramp. - Made
 straight across the Fresh Kill bridge and then through Ros-
 ville & Kreischoeville down to Tottenville. - From there

Mch. 15 (continued)

walked along the R.R. track to Princes Bay, then down to the beach and back again, along the track to Eltingville & then across the bridge and home again. The roads were neither dried by sun or hardened by frost and the walking was not of the best, but I got through my 25 or 30 mile walk in good shape notwithstanding. The locality around Kreischerville must certainly be visited later on.

Mch. 22

Walked across the Island to Pleasant Plains this morning and met Nat. We proceeded down to the shore near the highest bluff until upon raising trouble with a certain boulder of limestone that we had long had our eyes on. We were equipped with a mesh sack, drill, sledge hammer, fuse and powder flask. We drilled a hole about 10 in. deep, filled it up, tamped it, fired and ran. It was done in great style and the result was a mass of fossiliferous fragments. After this a cold drizzling rain set in, so I took the train as far as Court House & walked it home from there. The walking was frightful and I was pretty thoroughly soaked, so I confess myself pretty thoroughly worn out tonight.

Mch. 23

Checked off my herbarium today & find that I have 850 species of our flora mounted, which, according to our Catalogue leaves me about 200 yet to collect before it is complete. Our Catalogue has met with a most encouraging reception from both individuals and publications & I am collecting quite a scrap book of kindly notices.

Mch. 29

Took a walk along Ocean Terrace, through Blood Root Valley & home by the Clover Valley. Found the first Riverwork in bloom but it was a poor attempt, almost as mean as the *As Butler*.

April 5"

Had a good chance to time myself today on a tramp to meet Nat. over at Eltingville. - Left Port Richmond at 7.45, Graniteville 8.05, Bulls Head 8.25, Springville 8.35, Fresh Kills Bridge 9.0, Eltingville 9.25. - We spent the day at Kreisich's fire brick works at Kreisichville, until about noon, & then cut across to Princes Bay. Found a fine grove of *Pinus mitis* and *P. inops* on the way. - Succeeded in getting a limited amount of *Arbutus*. - From there tramped to Eltingville & so on home. -

May 2"

Went out on my first real botanical tramp of the season. Took along the Clove Valley, over Ocean Terrace, through Bloodroot Valley and then through the woods to Bulls Head home. - Made an oversight in the Willows and collected a most distracting lot. I do not know how it came about but I began to find *Piper-
laria* & kept on finding it all the way through the woods from Bloodroot Valley to Bulls Head. The woods were full of it and I see now that the best way to find it is to look for the leaves about this time of the year when they are conspicuous & locate the plants for the time they may be expected in flower the following summer. - Found a hawk's nest containing one rotten egg, in the same patch of woods near Bulls Head. I have never found them before. I am more than ever convinced that the same birds return to the same locality year after year. -

May 3"

Walked over to Eltingville, took the 10 train & went down to Richmond Valley. - Explored the pine woods towards Totenville and found some more *Epigaea* just south of the R.R. - Walked back through the *Epigaea* localities to Eltingville and noted with sorrow that it is fast disappearing. - Evidently many people know of it, for there are instances of great mutilation in places & the plants are torn up in a most saddening manner. Took the train at Eltingville, went as far as New Dorp and then walked home. -

May 9"

Tramped all day, through Four Corners, along Ocean Terrace, up Bloodroot Valley & then home by way of Springville. Found a patch of Ficaria in the borders of the woods near the Little Cove Road, also a single tree of Pinus strobus in a field near Four Corners! Wonder what that pine is doing there? Came across a full grown crow with a broken wing, so captured him & brought him home. Will amputate the broken member & the bird appears all right now. Climbed up to my hawk's nest near Bulls Head, which I found on the 2nd inst., but only the same one egg was in it.

May 10"

Tramped around the neighborhood of Clove Lake and came across a patch of cranberries on the west bank. Encountered two young Bergen Point botanists & piloted them around a bit. In evening went up to Torrey Club meeting. I am glad to say that several lady members have been elected lately, and these, with the young blood of the other sex that has been recently infused into the Club, ought to make things bustle a bit. Mr. Wright had a white peach blossom which he says grows on Staten Island & bears white peaches.

May 16"

This was a big tramp! Took across Long Bridge, through Marshlaw Valley Forge & Rossville, to Totenville, then back to Huguenot where I took the train to New York and then walked over home. It was a steamy day and I got my nose sunburned. Secured several plants for the Island, among them being Podophyllum. On a gate in Rossville is a sign "Please shut the Gate", which has been mutilated into "Please shut the Cat"! Got a number of wood ticks on me while I was passing through the woods near Rossville. The night crawling out from my clothes at the most unexpected & inopportune times, especially while I was in the train.

May 27

The biggest tramp of the season! - Made straight for Richmond then along the Fresh Kills Rd. to Rossville. - Struck cross cots then and came out on the R.R. near Richmond Valley. - From there went down to Tottenville and there found I had left home without my money, so had to start a walk back. By this time it was 3.10 o'clock. Got as far as Court House in two hours. and then thought I would be real smart and take a short cut home. Struck what I thought was a bee line through the woods and bushes and imagine my surprise when after half an hour's hard walking I struck the R.R. track again! - I was completely bewildered & supremely disgusted to think that I should have actually walked in a loop & so completely miscalculated my direction. It made me mad clean through. I tore home at a terrific gale. Did it from New Dorp in about 1 hr. 10 m. - I have been thinking over my singular adventure in getting lost on Staten Island & the more I think of it the more strange it seems. I never before realized how it was possible for a person to completely lose their sense of direction, but I see now that it is not by any means a difficult matter! -

June 5

Walked over to Eltingville in morning. Met Nat. Britton on the train. we proceeded to Tottenville. - Tramped from there over Kreischerville way - thence back to Pleasant Plains - from there took the train to New Dorp and then walked home. - We scooped in a number of new plants and a double Ranunculus repens.

Aug 31

Paid a visit on old man Chorlton, with Father, this morning. Every time I go there I become more and more imbued with Darwinistic ideas. Chorlton has a very convincing way of pointing out evidences of the theory of evolution in the objects of every-day life. - His little bank of Sedums & allied plants is an object lesson in itself. -

Sept. 13"

Took some of the Tommy Club members on a tramp around Clove Lake. We scooped in a very good score and nailed a new one for Station Island - *Valisneria spiralis*. -

Sept. 15"

Walked over to Huguenot this morning and then got on a train. Met Nat. Britton & Dr. Schoeney on board. - We all got off at Richmond Valley and explored the region from Pottsville to Princes Bay. - Stumbled on one tree of *Quercus bicolor*! Had a big feed of raw oysters fresh from Princes Bay. - Took the 4 o'clock train to New Dorp and walked from thence home. -

Sept. 26"

Went shooting with Will VanClief. - Drove down to Watchogue and tried the sand dunes. - Each shot 3 highholders. - Back home again by 2 o'clock.

March 2"

As I soon expect to be on my way to California I determined to take advantage of a fine day and pay my last respects to Bloodroot Valley. - Everything was forging ahead and the buds of the Riverwort & Bloodroot were almost ready to unfold. I sat down on the steep bankside and as I listened there was a constant undefined sort of rustling as though everything was beginning to move and grow again. - I felt my old tramping fever break out in me today with full force as I ground the dirt under my feet and I appreciated fully how hard it is going to be for me to leave this beautiful Island where I have found so much to please and have seen so much that is beautiful. -

The remainder of this year was spent in Bear Valley, Mariposa Co., California.

March 12"

Went down to Princes Bay in 11 o'clock train. - My object was to see if *Epigaea* was in bloom, but it was not. I felt just like a schoolboy let loose. It has been so long since I tramped on the Island that I didn't mind the mud or the little drizzle of rain & hail. I rode back to New Dorp and then struck off on foot again, taking in Bloomingdale Valley on the way. This was the last place to which I tramped before I went away, and now, a year after, it is the first day's tramp that takes me there again. - I feel like my old self once more!

April 17"

Took a little stroll with Father this morning up towards Grantville. - Found quite a number of flowers in bloom that I have not seen for two years. It was like meeting old friends once more. We also watched a mass of water snakes, all twisted together. I guess they must have been hibernating there.

April 23"

Walked over to New Dorp and took the train to Tottenville. Gathered in some fine *Epigaea* from my little patch in the pine grove, and then struck cross lots for Princes Bay. Found the plants there almost exterminated and numbers of people tearing it up. Tried the Huguenot localities next and found destruction there also. The little bankside up to the brook seems to be the only spot which has not been visited. Very soon I fear that this plant will be a thing of the past on Staten Island. Took the train back to New Dorp and then walked over home.

July 10

Made an investigation of Bodine's dock this morning, as I knew it had been filled in with rubble & might contain many interesting plants. Father and I tramped over through the weeds and we found about half a dozen species new to the Island - *Poa serotina*, *Agrostis spica-vanti*, *Molinia caerulea* etc. A rich haul.

July 21"

A sad accident happened today. - The cage containing my chipmunk was knocked down and the poor little beast received his death blow. His life has been quite a long one, but I never expected that he would die a violent death. I caught him I find on May 23rd 1874, so that I have had him over seven years. -

Sept. 9"

Nat. Britton was at the house tonight and spoke of the possibility of forming a natural history society on the Island. He consulted me it and actually made out a list of such people as we thought would be interested in the matter.

Oct. 7"

Our scheme of a Staten Island scientific association is beginning to blossom out I find and by judicious talking we are beginning to arouse an interest I find. - I do hope we can succeed, it is needed, and may bring together a great many more people than we imagine.

Oct. 22"

Took a day off with Nat. Britton & devoted it to hickory nuts. Got up at about 6 o'clock & walked over the Manor Road until I met Nat. at Ellettsville. We filled a meal bag in about two hours, at the trees in the Huffer Place & then Nat. went to Docum's and borrowed another sack and we almost filled that from trees below Weisner Ave. - It was a perfect day and I enjoyed it from head to heels. It was one of our old time rackets over again.

Nov. 12"

This eve I assisted, with Willie Davis, Nat. Britton and eleven others to form the "Natural Science Association of Staten Island". We met at Willie Davis' home and organized by electing Sanderson Smith President, Chase Lang Rec. & Fin. Secy., myself, Cor. Secy. & Willie Davis Curator. - We also adopted a Constitution.

Nov. 12 (Continued.)

tion and By-Laws and elected a number of members in addition to those who were present. — I was astonished at the number of workers we have succeeded in gathering together and I think that everything looks very propitious of success. — The roster that we succeeded in assembling together tonight consisted of: Sanderson Smith, Chas. W. Lenz, Wm. F. Davis, Arthur Hollide, N. L. Britton, Chas. W. Butler, A. L. Carroll, B. J. Carroll, Saml. Henshaw, W. B. Berry, E. F. Neilson, E. F. Birmingham, E. C. Delavan and Geo. W. Wright. — I think now that we ought to be able to keep things going, but it will require careful thought and handking to steer things right for a while; after that things ought to run themselves. —

Dec. 3.

Had the second meeting of the Nat. Sci. Assn. this evening. Secured quarters in the 3rd Dist. public school. — Our attendance was eighteen in spite of bad weather and we had quite a display of specimens. — Perfected our business arrangements & adjourned about 11.30 o'clock. I think we are doing well and I look forward to rapid strides, especially on the part of our younger members. What we want now is a permanent place of abode & somewhere to accumulate & display specimens. —

Dec. 10"

The third meeting of the Nat. Sci. Assn. was held this evening in the rooms of the Young Men's Catholic Union. — Quite a large meeting — a number of visitors as well as members. — I carried some of our Staten Island Indian implements along & gave a short dissertation upon arrow heads so. — Things look very promising, but we must obtain permanent quarters and place for a museum somehow. — we expect to amount to anything. Another thing that I want to gradually insist upon is to confine our efforts to local matters and not go into general science or attempt to form a more curiosity shop. — What we want is a local museum. —

Dec. 26

No water yet. - A beautiful fine day. Went a little walk with
Father and Addie around by Marthing's Pond. - Actually found
Alder and some dandelions in flower. -

Jan. 14th

Our Nat. Sci. Assn. meeting was well attended again, as usual, but I wish certain of our members would let up on discussing general scientific matters. Such discussions may be interesting & even instructive but they are not conducive to the development of local interest, which is my cherished idea. There is plenty of work to be done right here on Staten Island & all matters not of strictly local interest should be left to the larger scientific societies of New York & Brooklyn. This is my aim & this is what I intend to strive for and bend all my energies to accomplish.

April 1st

Went in an all day tramp with Nat. Britton Bert. Wheeler. Walked over to New Dorp & met the boys on the 9 o'clock train. Went down to Princes Bay & hunted up the first few *Ephedra* beds, but there were hardly any yet. Next we struck across country to the clay pits and examined them & finally walked home via Rossville Richmond. Think we added several new plants to our Staten Is. list and I collected a lot of mosses to freeze over.

April 8th

Had our Nat. Sci. Assn. meeting this evening, in our new quarters in the Village Hall. A good meeting and good quarters, but I wish they were a little more homelike. However they will do temporarily until we see what sort of a success we are going to make out of our attempt to popularize science on Staten Island.

April 15th

Walked over to New Dorp and picked up Nat. Britton. Took in Bloomingbrook Valley on the way and found *Bloodroot* out and *Licorick* & *Saxifrage* abundant. Took the train down to Huerfano & walked to Princes Bay, gathering in a supply of *Arbutus*.

April 16"

Got a horse and rockaway and took Addie & Father over to my Arbutus locality at Huguenot. - I treated them to a regular Arbutus gorge, and all hands enjoyed it hugely. - The roads were good & the weather beautiful, and the Arbutus just at its prime. -

May 21"

A red letter day! - Went on the 9 o'clock train with Bert Wheeler and Willie Davis. - Met Rudkin & Wilber on board and picked up Nat. at New Dorp. - All hands got off at Tottenville and made cross lots over towards Kreischer ville. - Just beyond Pleasant Plains, in a swamp, we found a very nice natural graft between two young beech trees, so we hacked away at the roots until we succeeded in getting it safely out of the ground & carried it home in triumph for the Nat. Sci. Class. - In a maple swamp at Kreischer ville, we came across a few plants of *Helonias bullata* and executed a wild dance of joy around them. On the way home, near Wood-ron, we also found two other plants new to our flora, viz: *Sedum ternatum* and *Sagittaria decumbens*. - Came home from Siffords by train. -

May 28"

Went out in the woods this morning with Willie Davis. - Made an Ocean Terrace with crows in our minds eyes. - Packed the first nest we encountered and each secured a well grown young one. - Made a good botanical haul of desiderata for exchanges and also laid in a stock of Clematis's ochroleuca particularly, over on Dood Hill. - Nat says there is a young one awaiting me down at New Dorp whenever I want to get it. -

July 9"

Tramped over to Richmond with Willie Davis and Chas Butler. - Found *Potamogeton aquaticus* in abundance in Cleve Lake Swamp and yet I can swear there wasn't a ghost of it there last year. - It looks like

July 9th (continued.)

A case of spontaneous generation, but in any event it gives us another addition to the flora of the Island. We shall soon have additions enough for a second appendix at this rate! The mosquitos were pretty bad, but we walked over the salt meadow in spite of them and took a swim in Fresh Kills. -

July 15th

The Torrey Club were scheduled for Court House today so I met them. - Dr. Schoeny, Miss DuBois & Miss Rich were the only ones that turned up. - I went for my Hollomia ponds but found that the Southfield Drainage Commission had drained them dry. Then I tried for Magnolias and found them out of bloom. Finally made an attempt to get some specimens of *Ranunculus multifidus* at Court House and only got some mangy scraps. - Added to these disappointments the mosquitos were swarming, the weather hot & wood ticks plenty. It was a large day!

Aug. 17th

Our owl disappeared last night and we mourned him for lost, but early this morning the crows began to make a great noise around the front of the house and an investigation revealed the owl on the piazza rail, blinking at the crow, who was engaged in scolding away at a great rate. - We secured him again without any trouble, after his night of liberty. -

Aug. 19th

The sorrow must be chronicled that the crow is dead! - This almost discourages me from trying to keep pets any more. I miss his welcome yell when I came home tonight more than anyone can imagine. Only a couple of days sickness - a sort of running at the mouth with a sharp cackling cough & then all over. -

Nov. 4th

Our tramping with Willie Brown. He is such an unsophisticated

Nov. 4" (continued).

you that Nat. & I have decided to dub him "the Trough". We made over Ocean Terrace, for chestnuts, but I found that many of my localities had been despoiled. I imagine that modern improvements in the shape of telephone poles must be largely responsible for this. - It was not until we got over by the Poor House region that we struck any good trees.

Nov. 5"

Took advantage of a pleasant day to go a walk with Father & Uddie. - We got as far as the cedar woods near Four Corners and laid in a bunch of *Mitchella*, *Chimaphila* etc. for a winter bouquet. - The last few asters and golden rods were yet remaining and a bee was caught in the act of trying to squeeze some honey from a decaying *Androsace*...

Nov. 11"

We held our first anniversary of the Natural Science Association tonight & had a full attendance. - If we can only hold together through succeeding years as successfully as we have done through this we can make it go I guess. -

Nov. 25

Made a combination of the Nat. Sci. Assn. & Torrey Botanical Club & went down to Richmond Valley. - We raised quite a crowd and while the scientific results were few the social effect was good. - Our main object was to collect mosses, mostly on Lizzie Knight's account, so we got over to the tunnel at the Kreiserville clay beds & scooped some. -

WM. T. DAVIS
146 STUYVESANT PLACE
STATEN ISLAND NEW YORK

Oct. 30. 1929

Dear Dr. Hollick:

Lang & I are preparing the numerous illustrations for our edition of Staten Island, which is all printed now. I have been able to copy an old photograph of the Black Horse Tavern taken by Swedish J. Carvell, so that it will do for an illustration - it is blacker than the original. I desire to give Carvell credit for his picture & would also like to make sure of the date, which I think was about February 23, 1885. Please look in your journal & possibly you noted exactly when he photographed the large Gun on New Dorp Lane & the Tavern. As far as I am aware there is no other photo. of the Tavern though I have in mind two sketches.

When the Gun was photographed Butler (Hornum), Davis, Hollick & Congdon are shown on the fence under the tree.

Yours

as mailed record.

Sincerely yours,
Wm. T. Davis

X Feb. 2 1883.

Jan. 4th

Quite an important day in the annals of botany! Nat. and I concluded that certain reforms had become necessary in the Torrey Botanical Club, so we braced up, pulled all the wires we could & the result was a big entering wedge at the Annual Meeting tonight. - Wilbur was relieved and was elected in his place as recording secretary and Nat. was seated in the associate editor's position. - We have got Dr. Newberry as president, & now all we want is to institute some changes in the Bulletin. - The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind all the time! -

Feb. 20th

Inaugurated public lectures as a feature of the Nat. Sci. Assn. tonight. - Had Herman L. Fausch to lecture on "Glaciers" and drew a large audience. - Geo. Wm. Curtis & other prominent citizens were present & I think we did a good stroke of practical politics. - Hope the public will appreciate the effort. -

Feb. 22nd

Spent forenoon with Willie Davis, Bruce Congdon, Bradish Parrott, Herman Butler and celebrated Washington's Birthday with a big bang. - Took the train to New Deep. Photographed the Black Horse River, the big Nyssa tree at the racetrack. - Made for the beach next and collected Glossea & jetsam. Walked down towards the Point first, then back to the Fort.

Feb. 4th

Took a day with Nat. Butler, Willie Davis, Bradish Parrott, Herman Butler and drove to Edinboro. - Photographed the Parlopp house. - Made up my mind to hunt for some arrow heads, and found two in short

March 2 (Continued)

order. - This set the others on and we found several more, besides some problematic implements. - By this time it had begun to snow, but we made for Prince Bay, took a photograph of the bluff, then took refuge in a bath house until we put for the day and took our train home.

March 25

Early Sunday - Took a tramp with Willie Davis & Louis Sawyer. - Spring weather at last. - We went up to the Bullhead region in the hopes of finding a hawk's nest but didn't succeed. - Had a very exciting chase after a flying squirrel & captured the animal. -

April 8

Went on our exploring tramp with Willie Davis, Louis Sawyer & Mr. Bush. - Met with Mr. Rudkin & his friend Newberry joined us on the train and we all got off at Barrettsville. - Newberry was to show us where Phoradendron used to grow, so we went back towards Clifton & he pointed out a stand of Hesperis trees in a swamp near the Kingsport Road. - Found some Sepalia in bloom. - Made our way along Ocean Terrace road and had a successful chase after a gray squirrel, which we snatched out of a tree & captured. - Extended our walk as far as to Woodstock Valley. -

April 10

Went on our exploring tramp with Willie Davis, Louis Sawyer & Mr. Bush. - Met with Mr. Rudkin & his friend Newberry joined us on the train and we all got off at Barrettsville. - Newberry was to show us where Phoradendron used to grow, so we went back towards Clifton & he pointed out a stand of Hesperis trees in a swamp near the Kingsport Road. - Found some Sepalia in bloom. - Made our way along Ocean Terrace road and had a successful chase after a gray squirrel, which we snatched out of a tree & captured. - Extended our walk as far as to Woodstock Valley. -

was a very peculiar case of sexual connection today
as it was a very close one, and a very thorough
one. I am not sure if it is a result?

May 6"

Went on a day tramp with Willie Davis, Clara
Long & Saul Henshaw. Took over Watchogue and Bloom-
field way. Our prospective point was an alleged
new locality for Indian implements which had
been described to us by Montie Eadie. - We soon struck
a suspicious looking sandy field with plenty of
oyster shells & picked up an arrow head for a time.
Picked up Eadie's he hidles us to J. Merrill's house,
where we found several crates full of
sorts of implements. - We tried our best to inspire
him with the idea that the Natural Science
might own them all but we only succeeded in
giving a few arrow heads. - The
The Natural Science Association might be the
custodian of all such collections in Staten
Island & I hope to eventually see the day
it'll be.

May 12"

Had a Nat. Sci. Assn. meeting in evening. - President
absent - Curator sick in bed with the mumps. At-
tendance is decreasing all the time and we
have just about got down to our old time
stand-bys. But we are still holding on
and hope to eventually see the day
it'll be.

May 26"

Made a descent on Tollenville, with Father,
Herman Butler. Went for the Bonaparte house
this was a very interesting visit as it was the
first time we had been there since the day
it was first built.

May 26: (Continued)

which are now leaning against the rail fence:

Here Lyes

Y^e Body of Evjenea

y^e Wife of Thomas

Billopp Aged 23 years

Decd March y^e

1735 1/6



Here Lyes y^e Body of

Thomas Billopp Esq^r

Son of Thomas Farinar

Esq^r Decd August y^e

2^d 1750 In y^e 39th

year of his Age.

After this we made a search for indian implements & found three net sinkers, several arrow heads and some broken chips.

Then we examined the bluff and rooted out a kingfisher's nest with a set of eggs. - On the way back we struck a highholder's nest in the big maple, with a set of eggs in, and heard by I sighted a crow's nest which I investigated and came down in triumph with two young crows. It was a very large & red letter day! -

May 27th.

Started out with Willie Davis for Watchogue. - Going by way of 4 corners I spotted a pair of scarlet tanagers building in a white oak tree & must visit them later on. - On the way we passed the old Central R.R. embankment where we saw a mushy looking mass hanging & when we scooped it with a net found it was a red bat!

At Watchogue we met Chas. & Herman Butler & joined forces. - In the salt meadow ditches we came across a number of hinged turtles, which are new to the Island's fauna.*

The mosquitoes were beginning to be uncomfortably busy on the warm sandy soil.

* Davis says it is *Chionatemora Pennsylvanicum*.

June 10th.

The day was hot, but I made up my mind that I must secure the scarlet tanagers. Next that I spotted two weeks ago, so I climbed out to the corners. - Succeeded in securing my mission & got a good set of three eggs, pretty well incubated. - Had to lay down & rest after my climb and have felt sick all day after it. - Imagine that I narrowly escaped a sun stroke. -

June 11th.

Had a good day's tramping with Willie Davis, Weeks, and Brooklyn & Herman & Chas. Butler. - Didn't go far, but succeeded in getting a good lot of plants, including two new additions to our main island flora - *Chaptalia aurea* & *Chaptalia* (outage). There were no mosquitoes, the day was cool & my big hunting companions made good collection in their line, so we all came home happy. - One more - a great crested flycatcher. - Willie says he wants to join us again. -

June 24th.

Took a trip down to Richmond Valley & Pottenville with Willie Davis, Weeks & Potter. - Fine weather and no mosquitoes to bother us. - Came across a new field for indian religion & found a few. Willie Davis also picked up, in the same field, a large fossil shell.

June 25th.

Had a good day's tramping with Willie Davis, Weeks, Herman & Chas. Butler. - Didn't go far, but succeeded in getting a good lot of plants, including two new additions to our main island flora - *Chaptalia aurea* & *Chaptalia* (outage). There were no mosquitoes, the day was cool & my big hunting companions made good collection in their line, so we all came home happy. - One more - a great crested flycatcher. - Willie says he wants to join us again. -

July 15* (continued.)

We staked at the old British headquarters on Richmond Hill to investigate some indications of chimney swallows. We attacked both chimneys from the inside with our hammers and were rewarded by finding one nest with two eggs. - Walked over to the Hills then and had a swim. By this time it was about 4.30 o'clock and we made for home. Arrived back about 8 o'clock in a hard rain.

Aug. 5th

Took the train down to Pleasant Plains with father, Willie Davis & Louis Sawyer. - Walked over to Kreischerville & back to Richmond Valley. It was a beautiful day but almost sterile of finds for all hands. - Sawyer's dog turned out to be a fine & rare snake killer. -

Sept. 2nd.

Started out for a tramp with Willie Davis and Louis Sawyer. - Came across the Butlers at Four Corners & all joined forces. - Discovered a snake's nest in an old tree and spent about an hour trying to demolish it. There was great danger about it to make it lively. - We also had a chipmunk chase, without result. Succeeded in getting out as far as Watchogue. A nice day, with no mosquito to bother us. Accomplished the main object of my trip in great shape - namely, the collecting of *Vicia* with cleistogamous flowers and the run of white violets. - Got a big series of *Linum* specimens. -

Nov. 4th

Took in Potomac with father, Louis Sawyer and Nat. Britton. - Unearthed several Indian implements.

Nov. 4th (Continued.)

in the vicinity of the Billos House, but our crowning find was some undoubted fossil leaf impressions in a red shaly sort of rock on the shore at the base of the bluff! There are dicotyledones as well as monocotyledones, but too fragmentary for determination. Nevertheless the discovery has encouraged us.

Nov. 6th

Made a combination between the Torrey Club and Natural Science Assn. and turned out a crowd of assorted sexes 18 strong. The weather was perfect. We got off at Richmond Valley and walked over the hills to Kreischerville. The scientific results of the days tramp were almost nil, but we had a good social time & danced a lancers in a wheat field to the accompaniment of Wicks Piccolo, in great shape.

Nov. 10th

Had our annual meeting of the Nat. Sci. Assn. tonight & have every reason to be well satisfied. We had plenty of material and made preliminary arrangements for trying the experiment of publishing our proceedings! We have apparently entered on this year's work in a good solid basis and with some valuable experience. It looks as if we were sure of existing for some time to come. Two years ago I little thought that we should ever be on such a firm basis, our present condition as we are. We elected Dr. Carroll president, Samuel Graham treasurer, Wm. Aug. sec. secretary, Wm. J. Carr. secretary, Willie Davis curator.

Nov. 18th.

Had quite a large haul at Cottonville, with Willie Davis, James H. and a Bassett, the latter a native of the soil.

My main object was to try and find more fossil bones, & I succeeded in finding a few more fragments, cooperating in their incompleteness, but so strongly suggesting similar specimens from New York & Keokuk that they appear identical. - I so then we have Cretaceous bones in Staten Island, but are they in place? A regular Indian summer day.

Feb. 10th

First tramp of the season. Weather beautiful, but mud galore. - Willie Davis, Weeks & Louis Sawyer were with me. - Got off the train at Pleasant Plains & made for the Prices Bay bluff. - Walked along the shore to Dottenville. - Collected a number of specimens of drift rocks for the Nat. Sci. Assn. collection and had a clam roast. - At the Dottenville point we struck a new field for Indian implements & I gathered in quite a number, including net sinkers and some hammer stones. -

Feb. 22^d.

Successful in getting a crowd of 9 Nat. Sci. Assn. fellows to gether for a tramp. - Took across the Clave valley and over to Bloodroot Valley. - Fine weather. - Collected more drift rock specimens & found a 4 leaved strawberry!

April 6th

Called in for Willie Davis this morning to go a tramp but found him sick in bed. - Met his hunter Weeks down at the boat and induced him to go to Port House Station with me. - From here we made across the Island, through Richmond, over by the Port House and so on home. - Could not do very much in the way of collecting so helped Weeks to root out beetles from under rocks and stumps. - Incidentally, captured some saboteurs while hunting for beetles. - Checked out about a dozen hand specimens of drift boulders.

April 13th.

Had a day at Dottenville with Father & Louis Sawyer. - Had a beautiful day & fair luck amongst the Indian implements. - Sawyer also rated in a crow's nest. -

April 20th.

Had a big day with Fonso Sawyer. Started over towards Bull's Head with crows, hawks and gray squirrels in our minds eyes. - Our first exploit was chasing up a horned owl. Started it from some pine trees at the corner of Little Cove Rd. & the Turnpike. - Sawyer had his bean shooter & took the bird square in the breast but without effect. We then chased it through the woods and underbrush to 4 Corners but finally lost it. - Found several crow and squirrel nests and finally Sawyer climbed for one and after a risky time brought down four young gray squirrels - almost too young, I am afraid, to rear.

Thus far we had not found a hawk's nest, but there still remained a patch of the woods near Bull's Head which we had not explored and I felt sure we could hardly miss one there. Sure enough there was a nest, in one of the biggest trees, utterly unclimbable, but Sawyer was equal to the emergency and by dint of swinging in from a neighboring tree succeeded in getting at it and safely lowering the set of three eggs. - red shouldered hawk's. -

It was emphatically a red letter day and we held a war dance of joy in the woods.

April 27th

Expected that Sawyer would come for me to go on a walk. but a note came instead, containing the information that he had had an encounter with a game rooster & got licked. - The rooster had disputed the right of way & when Sawyer undertook to kick it aside the bird got in such a piece of fine work with his spurs that Sawyer's foot was pierced & he is nursing a wounded ankle!

April 28th.

Sawyer turned up at the house all night tonight, with the information that he had been out today in the direction of Watahogue and had gathered in another red shouldered hawk's nest and a crow's nest with six eggs in it!

May 10th.

Had a very large evening at the Nat. Sci. Assn. meeting. - I had collected all the facts and material in relation to the indian relics we have found at Tottenham. Nat. Britton brought a stone head along, which was lately dug up at Concord - near the Fingerboard Rd., & Geo. F. Kunz to explain about it. Old Chas. Don turned up with a lot of Florida relics and others had other good material to show. - If we can continue this sort of thing the Nat. Sci. Assn. is an assured success. -

May 11th.

Took a tramp over towards Watahogue, where I met "Montie" Eddie. - We hunted Juncos together until about 3 o'clock, and then I made for Bull's Head. Did great work among the Violets today and obtained a number of interesting forms such as double petals, typical sagittata, primulaefolia with long runners &c. - Tried to find another gray squirrel's nest, as the young were. Sawyer and I obtained none all day, but without success. Inspected some of the crow's nests which we had located and found one lot hatched out. - Had quite a sharp little thunder shower. -

May 14th.

Had the Perry Botanical Club down to Staten B. and today. Twenty five of us turned up. We started from

May 17th (continued)

New York, went over Todd Hill and along the top of Ocean Terrace, descending again to Darrells Cove. *Vicia pedata*, *Crataegus oblongifolia*, *Asplenium aculeata*, *Salix lyrata* & *Pteris caudata* were in great shape and the brook, leading from Reed's willow swamp was blue with *Myxosoma*. Mr. and Mrs. Hayward were along and I earned their blessing by securing for them a Crown Thrush in a fish row's nest with eggs. We also mated out a lot of full grown young flying squirrels and succeeded in capturing two, besides the mother. Left the remainder of the party at Darrells Cove and walked home across the Island with the Haywards, Eddie Cress and Montie Eadie.

May 25th.

Went out to Smith's Head and secured three young Crown, just about ready to leave the nest. The dam was red hot & between the heat and the exhaustion of climbing I imagine I very nearly had a sunstroke. From the number of nests I examined here that I found today, without half looking, I imagine that this is a big nest year.

May 30th.

Took a day off Decoration Day to put in a full day in the woods with the boys, Mr. and Mrs. Cress. We took along Ocean Terrace and then the night we walked back of Richardson's Hill & over to the house. We were unsuccessful flying squirrels. Then captured a couple of mice - Skollie a red squirrel in the nest just back of the house. Hill & after a long walk from it to the house.

Spent the day with the Willie Davis
family. The children were very
friendly. I saw a large number of
the same as I saw at the last place. I heard
of a very bright red color and finally
saw it in the shade. It was a white I then
saw a red spot in such a soft better
than I have ever seen. I saw
some more.

Aug. 23^d.

Today was scheduled as a Torrey Club field day in
Richmond Valley so I was on hand with Willie
Davis Rose & Mr. & Mrs. Schrecks, Schrecks and
his daughter also turned up. We discovered
a large patch of Ascyrum Crux-andreae a
apparently a new Ascyrum & it was
very fine. I saw a lot of them that were
likely new to me. Kreis told me that
I am sure it will represent a new species.
Saw one at I'll not say the apple, but
in a field and lastly saw a golden three
arrow heart at once!

Aug. 31st

A beautiful day. Took a boat to the
Perrine with Willie Davis and his son. The
only item of importance was the discovery of
Blau's Lythium right at the highest point.

The weather was very fine. Apparently all
the day. The examination shows the
true nature of the plant & its value.

Sept 26th

down to the train station with Willie Davis and a call at Pond's, expecting to find a few more specimens, but we were disappointed. Only wish we could get them from the Sci. Assoc. - Will. Page joined us and all hands proceeded down to Tottenville. Found an area near on the way, in a most conspicuous, looking field and when we arrived on the Sci. Assoc. ground we found a newly plowed section and gathered in some fine ones.

Sept. 27th

on a journey between Tottenville and Sci. Assoc. - About 17 turned up and then from Garrettsville up the highest ridge then over to West New Brighton. Did not do much in the botanizing line, but we all had a fine day and ended the season in good shape. The car nearly always covered by a day in Staten Island.

Oct. 5th

Went on a train with Willie Davis. We got off the train at Tottenville and went some short distance into the woods. The woods are mostly salt meadows and brick yards on the shores of the Hills. A fine road for some specimens and in the salt meadows. In some curious things from an old deserted house, to which a mysterious man went. The man came on the train with us. He was a very old man, the name of the man was not known. He had several Indian shell trophies in his house, in which we found several old Indian things. In the afternoon it was a great pleasure to have a great party to catch the train home.

Oct. 19th

Went with Father down to Yellowville for the express
purpose of hunting for Indian antiquities.
We had good luck and were made to acquire
some of our objects, some of which are in the collection
place. We also found a collection of relics
from the past. We were very good men to have
the things of the past. At present
the things of the past are such things, we
do not have them in our collection.

Oct. 20th

Went with Father down the R.R. and
at 10:00 am. we were in the train. We all got off
at Pleasant Plains & proceeded to the
portion of unexplored territory over Kn's bar
which we had left in the morning. We
were very happy. We were very happy.
We were very happy. We were very happy.

Nov. 2nd

Went with Father down the R.R. and
found a few Indian relics in the
train. We were very happy. We were very happy.
We were very happy. We were very happy.

Nov. 10th

Went with Father down the R.R. and
found a few Indian relics in the
train. We were very happy. We were very happy.
We were very happy. We were very happy.

Jan. 3.

Took a run off - played hockey from work - and went down to Tillamook with Jas. Raymond. A pretty cold but clear day. - Searched the shore for fossil bones, but the ice was too great an accumulation of ice so we gave it up and devoted ourselves to Indian relics. - Had good luck, on ground which we had gone over many times previously. - Jas. found, in particular, one long stone axe. He visited Decker and tried to fire him up some more on the subject. - He was successful on the sunny side of our old barn; located a dozen specimens, and passed a very uneventful & pleasant day with which to inaugurate another season of hunting.

Jan. 30.

Went to work again and succeeded in dragging the structure down to the same level. - He took a train to Portland and filed the certificate of incorporation for the National Society of Ornithology with the County Clerk. - He was just back, walking, as other people would say, again by lunch time.

Feb. 23.

Washington's birthday was celebrated today, yesterday was Sunday, and I took advantage of the holiday to go on a tramp with Willie Brown, Jas. Raymond, Mr. Henshaw, Ernest Madden - his father. We started in at Clifton and hit South Beach to the bluff. Recent storms have made tremendous inroads on my old snipe hunting locality and the brush and trees in considerable measure removed.

A pretty cold day and considerable snow under

Feb. 25 (continued)

first, but built a big fire in the cedars and got thawed and dried out to some extent. Stopped in at Britton's on the way home.

Pulled a screed out of an old apple tree.

Mch. 21.

Had a great day all for myself. Took train down to Prince's Bay, waded down to the beach and across to the bluff, then back across lots to Giffords.

My intention was to go to Tollenville, but I stuck my face around the corner of the bluff and the cold wind made me weaker.

I found plenty of suspicious looking stone for fossil leaves at Prince's Bay, but found nothing, although I cracked open quite a lot.

The high tide of Feb. 16 has made great inroads into the banks, & has tumbled down a number of trees.

In spite of the cold weather blue birds and robins were sunning themselves in sheltered places & a white bellied nuthatch was climbing around and chirping contentedly. The day was very cold and I was glad to take refuge in one of the deep caves in the face of the bluff and watch the tiny snowflakes fall down, while I ate lunch. Incidentally I also searched for silicified fossils in the hollow gravel but without success.

On my way across lots, towards Tollenville, I came across a hollow apple tree, with a screech owl included. He was numb with the cold and I laid him out on the ground without disturbing him in the least. Finally, but him back again "for keeps." Came across a magnificent pyramidal fossil tree, near Giffords and found it to

Mich. 21 (continued)

measure 4 ft. 6 in. circumference!

Was much interested in the various footmarks over the snow - birds and beasts - particularly the *bo. ss.* When do they manage to make so many trips? I might watch for hours and not see a thing & yet here they are in abundance & evidenced by the innumerable criss-crossing tracks. - I wonder what hawks and crows find to eat now - they seem to manage somehow. Perhaps some of the track makers themselves suffer in this connection!

Near Anguenob I picked up some pseudo-indian implements which quite encouraged me for a time, but they didn't pan out very well.

It was a glorious tramp and no mistake.

Mich. 28.

Went down to Miller's in 9 o'clock train with Jim. Raymont, on a fossil insect hunt. - We calculated on low tide and recent severe storm to help us, but the bluff had been so undermined that whole areas of mud and sand had covered the beach for a distance out from the base of the bluff, so we hunted for Indian implements instead, with fair results.

Jim had his camera along so we shot the Bilclapp house and the canopy of the willow trees.

Weather was very warm & spring like.

April 5.

Took a Tramp to Watchogue with Willie Davis and Mr. E. W. Stevens. Terrible mud - never

(April 5, continued.)

before saw the roads so cut up - regular
magnificence, in places under the solid macadam.
Made described himself a sort of specialty today
and investigated all we came across. Struck
four within a comparatively short distance
of each other, in the vicinity of New Springville.
We obtained a goodly number and variety of
wasps' nests; found a quantity of ovalum in
one old garret, and in one old fire place
was actually a Franklin stove in first class
condition! One of the finest combinations of
moss and fern I ever saw was in one of these
old places down a well. - Discovered
a fine natural graft near the Watouque
road.

April 11.

Went down to Coltonville in a h.v. & for
Indian implements. Struck a new field
which I had not stumbled across previously &
gathered in some good ones. - Found *Draba*
cerna in bloom of course. When I started
out the weather was warm and pleasant,
but about 2 o'clock it began to snow and
I came home in the 3 o'clock train. -
At the Nat. Sci. Assn. meeting in evening Willie
Davis gave an excellent account of the way
in which the soft clam varies along our shores,
according to the character of the beach. Jim
Raymond electrified me with the infor-
mation that he had found a woodcock's &
an owl's nest, with eggs in each, during
the past week! I must look out for my
Laurels - the young birds are eating up
with me. - The influence of the Nat. Sci. Assn.
is making itself manifest.

April 19.

Went down to Annapolis with Willie Davis, Mr. Stenous and one of his youngsters. We also picked up old Bowers in the train. Struck across country over to Valley Forge thence through Rossville and to Kreischerville. Hunted for Indian implements but only found a couple of sinkers and a pseudo-arrow-head. - Many of the fields and being burnt over about this time and was much interested to see how the mouse and muskrat run stand out, clearly defined, like little gray roadways through the blackish grass. - The runs have been so closely packed down that the fire sweeps over them & leaves them. - What a wealth of animal life there must be, as represented by these runways alone, which we never see at all! -

April 25.

Acted as guide on a Torrey Club trip from Huguenot over to Kreischerville. Incidentally found a crow's nest & took one egg which I presented to Miss. Rich as a memento of the day. We made one good find along a heretofore unexplored brook near Pleasant Plains, where *Podophyllum* was in great abundance, but not in blossom. Everything was very backward. - In evening had grand microscopical exhibit by the Natural Science Assn. at the Village Hall. - We had 25 microscopes in line and a fine lot of popular exhibits. - Dr. Carroll made the opening address and Mr. Curtis made a few happy remarks on behalf of our guests. Our audience was large & enthusiastic and I think it was a big success for the U.S.A. -

May 2.

Took a tramp out Bull's Head way with Jim. Raymond. Our first exploit was finding a screech owl's nest, near the head of Jewett Ave., in an old orchard, with 4 eggs, quite badly incubated. - We took out the old bird but she would merely fly to some tree nearby and then fly like a shot back to the hole ^{while in} while we were working at it & discompose us considerably. After repeating this two or three times we left her and on our return tried the same experiment again with similar results! Found two blue birds nests with eggs almost hatched, and one robin's. Found the usual red-shouldered hawk's nest in the patch of woods between Willow Brook & Bull's Head, but it was ⁱⁿ such a tough tree this time that we gave up trying to reach it. - Raced gray squirrels out of two nests but failed to find any young ones. - Struck a new locality for *Paulophyllum*. - Altogether a rather large day!

May 3.

Had a day at Rotterdam with Willie Davis, Father, Mr. E. W. Stevens & 4 of his youngsters. We all had good luck in the Indian implement line & came home well pleased with our finds. One of the most beautiful sights I ever saw in the botanical line we struck today. It was an immense bush of *Amelanchier*, about 20 ft high & with a trunk 3 ft. in circumference, just in full bloom. - It is in a hedge row near the Billup House & some vandal had spoilt its symmetry by lopping off one large limb to lay down as part of the rough line fence! - The little patch of arbutus in the pine woods is almost obliterated and we shall soon have to go off Staten Island for this plant.

May 10.

Started out this morning with Willie Davis, leaving flying squirrels & fish crows in our minds eyes, so we made straight for the region near Reed's basket willow place, back of Garrettsville. Hunted several flying squirrels, from rotten trees without any special result, except that in one both a squirrel & a mouse emerged. Finally however one squirrel insisted on coming back as often as we chased her away and when we finally broke down the stump found four little flying squirrels with their eyes not yet open. - Found a fish crows nest with four fresh eggs & several common crows, all fresh. - As the fish crows generally nest later than the common ones I suppose these latter must represent crows whose ^{first} nests have been destroyed early in the season. - Made a visit to our big chestnut tree and remeasured it - 17 ft. 11 in. circumference - the biggest tree on Staten Island. Got a fine specimen of strangled white birch, due to a bitter-sweet vine twisting round it, near the Silver Mount cemetery. - A hard but fine days work, with lots of climbing and stone throwing.

May 17th

Went down to Tottenville with Father, Willie Davis, Mrs. Stevens and three of his youngsters. - The fields around the Bellop house are fringed with *Erodium* and the little last years seedlings are particularly pretty, like little green rosettes. We didn't have much luck at anything, but the day was fine. The first mosquito made themselves felt - I dug at a kingfishers nest in the bluff and after rooting about 4 ft. in, found that someone else had come a flank movement from above before me!

May 23^d

Took a day off with the intention of having an all day tramp. - Got up at 5 A.M. and found it raining. Waited until 8 o'clock when it let up a bit and Willie Davis came so off we started. We struck a chipmunk's nest first thing, by way of a starter, with three fresh eggs, and shortly after this Willie began wading in a swamp and got water into his rubber boots. This disgusted him & he turned tail for home, leaving me to finish the day alone. -

My first find was a blue jay's nest with four fresh eggs! Then I made for bloodroot valley and banged at all the old pine trees there until I scared out a highholder, & after digging the hole big enough I secured a set of 6 fresh eggs. - Walked back along Ocean Terrace & near Garretts found a bush of some peculiar *Lonicera* in bloom, which seems to be *L. cilicata*. Willie Davis and I had found it before, but as it was not in bloom then we could not identify it. -

Amused myself teasing a big black snake. It would shake and vibrate its tail in the dry leaves making a noise very much like a rattler. Also cornered a big water snake and found him the most vicious customer I encountered in the snake line on Staten Island. -

In the spring in the Prentice farm found a large gray salamander about 6 in. long. - Around the pond on Ocean Terrace there are numbers of a *Viola*, mottled with white in a most peculiar manner, also shrubs cablages with variegated yellow & green leaves. Quite a large day! -

May 26.

Went up to see the Raymonds this evening & found that they had been busy scooping things in. — They have filled up a room in their barn for a museum & menagerie, and I found that they had a young woodcock, rabbit, nest of crow and two blacksnakes. — Came home with one of the crows. — Sad fact that I have to beg a crow from someone instead of myself being the source from whence all crows emanate. — The youngsters are getting ahead of me. How I wish I were a boy again! —

May 30.

Met Jim and Chas. Raymond and Hen. Schmitt at 6 A.M. near Clove Lake & struck out for a day's tramp. — Made over Ocean Terrace, gathering in innumerable common nests, and one cardinal grosbeak's. Struck a bee tree back of the Moravian Cemetery, with the old comb in it and the track of the honey which had oozed through a crack in the tree and trickled down. — Also found the remains of a big bee's nest, with lots of combs, between the rafters of an old deserted house. — Crossed the Railroad near Court House and then started on a cross country hunt after ground birds. — Three meadow lark nests followed in quick succession — one with six eggs, besides innumerable sparrows. Near Gifford's, finally struck a sandpiper's nest. — After this we turned back, and went over Richmond Hill. — In an old orchard a hollow apple tree yielded a chickadee's nest — the first so far as I know ever found on Staten Island. — Arrived back home after 7 o'clock, delighted beyond measure with the day's tramp. —

June 7th.

Came on camp with Willie Davis. Made over
the morning and then down to the New River
basin. There we struck an open potato in
the ground with a little white cottage &
the most old lady imaginable. Was quite
interested and would like to know who she is.
Never came across the spot before and I appre-
ciate more than ever that there are many
acres of our island which I have not yet visited
and which hold infinite possibilities in store.
Struck over to Richmond Hill and tried to
find a bird's nest but the scheme of
dragging a heavy string between us over
the hills but we succeeded in flushing up
some small birds in the Richmond farm.
Found one fresh set of bird's eggs.
Did not stay at last with the guide that
I had taken but returned to camp alone.

June 13

Came on with Joe. Reached
Struck a few blue and first thing in the
we tried the old deserted mine near the sea.
Knocked a hole in the chimney and found
4 fresh chimney swallow's eggs.
Went along towards Springville and then over to
Richmond Hill through quite a tract of land
that was new to me.
Hunted through the Fresh Kill marsh for some
nests & found quite a number but none
with eggs. We were apparently too early.
Mosquitos were scarce and I enjoyed the
day hugely.
We left a number of nests to be visited again
in the future.

June 21st

Out on a tramp with Willie Davis. - Visited the blue jays' and crows' nests of last week and got a set of crows all right. - Found three great crested flycatcher's nests all with the eggs badly incubated. - The first one of these which we found was on the ground between the roots and partly inside a hollow tree! - This was something new to me, but Willie said that he had found a chimney swallow's nest, only yesterday, down a well!

The phoebe's are evidently laying their second set of eggs & I secured one set out of a nest which had young ones in it last week.

The marsh wrens were our special object today and we hunted along the banks of Fresh Kills until 6 P.M. with a final score of two eggs from one nest to our credit. There were plenty of new nests but no eggs. I think they must have been bachelor dens, not family nests.

Found a broken clapper rail's egg on the marsh, which is a new one for Staten Island.

In a little deserted house at the foot of Richmond Hill we saw a chimney swallow's nest in the chimney & after tearing out a hole large enough for Willie to get his head and shoulders in we secured a set of four fresh eggs.

Walked to Court House Station and came back home - in the 7 o'clock train.

A warm, nesting day for so late in the season.

July 5th

Went out with Willie Davis and as he complained that feeling very strong we agreed to confine our

attention to the Clove Valley. - Discovered an old
 screech owl and three young ones up a tree in the
 swamp, tried to scoop the young ones in by means
 of Willie's butterfly net, but didn't succeed. In
 a protracted rock fusillade afterwards I was un-
 fortunate enough to kill one. - Made for a
 deserted shanty on the Little Clove Rd. next and
 secured a chimney swallow's nest with 4 eggs.
 Also found a swamp sparrow's nest with 4 eggs,
 and a cat bird with young ones. - Visited the
 great crested flycatchers at the base of the tree &
 found that a tragedy had been enacted. Evidently
 some powder had been at work and only the dis-
 membered remains of birds were there. -
 The Azolla that Mr. Henshaw introduced in the
 ponds and ditches has thriven amazingly and
 numerous patches may be seen on the sur-
 face of the waters near the Turnpike. -
 Came home early - about 4 o'clock - chased by
 a thunder storm. -
 Willie came up in evening and we skinned and
 stuffed the little owl for the Nat. Sci. Mus. -

Aug. 9th

Let Willie Davis take me whither he would
 today. - Went over to the Four Corners iron mines
 and watched dragon flies with him and then
 took up Bradley's Road. - Saw a king bird
 taking a bath in a peculiar manner, by
 cascading from a tree into a pond, time and
 again, finally flying away after preening
 shaking its feathers. - Managed to secure a
 few huckleberries from the fine patch at the
 head of the road. -

Found what I think is *Nymphaea odorata* var.
 minor, in a shallow little pond hole near
 Four Corners, which is just surrounded by

a dense growth of *Clethra*, *Cephalanthus* and *Spiraea tomentosa*, with a most beautiful umbrella shaped *Nyssa* tree growing hard by. - On the way home I thought I would show Willie a peculiar flying squirrel's tree, one of Jim Raymonds' friends, near 4 corners. - The hole is made by two young elm trees rubbing against each other, causing a dead place at the point of crossing which has been finally worked into a hole. - This can be easily got at by prying the trees apart. - When we knocked an old squirrel fled out and I captured it in the butterfly net. Then we examined the hole and found it full of young ones, evidently just born! - Got safely home with the whole family. - This seems to be rather a curious time of year for young squirrels. This ought to be looked into. -

Aug. 24th.

A ghastly thing has happened! The old mother flying squirrel has killed and devoured her young family. - Only the partial remains of two out of the five were in the nest when I examined it today! I think I must let the old cannibal go. -

Sept. 8th.

Bencham came around this afternoon with his wagon & a lot of *Lotus*, *Hydra* &c. so we took Eddie along and proceeded up to Red. Bluffs place where we obtained permission to try & establish the plants in the ponds there. Also tried the same in Clove Lake & vicinity. This is not certain and may even lead to trouble for future botanists, in case we do not keep our records straight.

Sept. 12th.

Had our first Nat. Sci. Assn. meeting after the Summer adjournment. - Only I, Willie Davis and Dr. Carroll turned up. - There does not seem to be much enthusiasm left. - I guess Willie & I will have to bear the whole burden if it is to be kept alive at all. - We always have plenty of memoranda, but for the sake of variety at least it would look better for others to appear more frequently in the accounts of our meetings. -

Sept. 27th

We are suffering just now from a veritable plague of caterpillars - woolly ones - all colors. They seem to feed indiscriminately on everything green, from Ambrosia to Fuchsia - especially the latter. - In the City it is the same. Their tracks are to be seen over sidewalks and roads everywhere. - A great drought is also upon us and the roads are so dry that the macadam has become loosened and the road beds have suffered more than by frost. - Packing is impossible with only dust for binding material. -

Oct. 4th.

Went down to Pottsville with Willie Davis. Began to rain almost as soon as we struck the woods and while trying to keep passably dry under an oak tree a flash of lightning, followed instantaneously by a clap of thunder, so moved us that with one accord we moved into the open road. - Finally took shelter in an old barn and ate our lunch. - Found a few *Mitchella berries* with adnate leaves, and apparently they are not so very uncommon. Tried hunting for Indian implements, but only had indifferent success, mostly amongst

net sinkers and hammerstones.

The leaves of the trees and bushes have mostly turned their characteristic colors by now and a cursory glance seemed to indicate that many had distinctive manners of turning color. Thus the Gaylussacia always has a red margin and green center at first, while others show equally distinctive features.

Found a little land turtle about $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. long.

Oct. 7th.

Had a great day, with the hickories in the vicinity of Court House, with Nat. & Lizzie Britton & Addie. Gathered in two big bags full in about two hours, but we were a little too early in the season, as the husks were not all open.

Oct. 11th.

Another day's hickory nutting. - Nat. & Lizzie Britton, Willie Davis, Father, Addie, Eleanor & I. - We just ravaged Clark's woods, and made a tremendous haul. - It is still a little early in the season and we had to hammer a lot of the husks off. - It was a perfect Indian summer day and all hands enjoyed it thoroughly.

Nov. 1st.

Took quite a tramp with Willie Davis out past Bull's Head. Our object was to track the Crystal Water Supply Co. into its cain, which we did. They utilize the surface water of the Wilson Brook water shed and it looks like clear strong tea. -

Found a tree of fine flat shaped, paper shelled, shag bark hickories and while we were noting in a pile of stones for the few which had escaped the bears and squirrels we scared up a mouse. Succeeded in capturing it and Willie says it is a

common house mouse. -

Found *Gentiana saponaria* in full bloom. -
 A wild pigeon or dove flew out of the pinea back
 of Cove Lake as we passed through on the way
 home. - Scared out some sort of a water rat or
 mouse at the head of Cove Lake, which we
 made a chase for, but without success. -
 Secured quite a load of chestnuts, *Fraxinus*, *Celastrus*
scandens and *Ilex verticillata* berries for de-
 corative purposes. -
 Came home in a cold drizzling rain. -

Nov. 3rd.

Kept the usual joint Nat. Sci. Assn. & Torrey Club
 Section day, trains. - We turned out 2nd string,
 exclusive of Mr. Stevens dog. - Got off at Carletons
 and climbed up to the "Cowslip House", for the
 view. - Just beyond here Mr. Stevens' dog killed two
 chickens, so I bagged them for dinner. Walked
 along Ocean Terrace to the Vanderbilt Mausoleum.
 A great lot of drift material has been excavated
 there and among it I picked up a fine piece
 of what is apparently Oriskany sandstone com-
 posed almost entirely of *Spirifers*. -
 Home on the 3 o'clock train, and a thoroughly
 successful day. -

Nov. 15th

Had a very large day with Nat. & Lizzie Britton
 around the Kreischerville Clay beds. - During
 our examination of the main digging near
 the road we found a streak of lignite and vi-
 nals, some very fair leaves! They were more
 or less fragmentary of course, but the fact
 of finding them is encouraging and perhaps
 we may have better luck when further
 excavations have been made. - The day

was rather cold for handling clay and the number of interested spectators was out of all proportion to the importance of the subject. -

We also scooped in a new plant for Staten Island (*Pyxisium cheiranthoides* L.), and the perennials were just prime. -

Nov. 26"

Thanksgiving day! - Went out with Willie Davis, and Elias & Jim. Raymond, on a mouse hunt. We had made up our minds that we ought to know a little more than we did about our wild mice. -

Started in near Four Corners and soon found a number in old birds' nest. Captured four and saw plenty more, also noted a number out of old stumps. - They all proved to be the common deerfoot mouse. -

Struck over to Bloodroot Valley and began hunting for squirrels' nest. Chased one pair of flying squirrels out of a nest and another from a stump. This one we rec'd and finally captured. Hunted out several gray squirrels also and captured one after a big chase. -

Saw several chipmunks likewise and tried in a desultory manner to capture one, but concluded that our menagerie was large enough for one day. - 4 deerfoot mice, 1 flying squirrel, 1 gray squirrel!

We investigated deserted homes and came across one on the Springville road with a splendid big Franklin stove in it which I should have liked to own. -

Found one very peculiar Hickory tree, which appears like a cross between a shag bark and a big nut, with shells so thin that they can be crushed by the teeth, near Mr. Andrews' place. -

A very large and enjoyable day.

Nov. 28th.

Went down to Ottumville with Jim. Raymond. - Had very pleasant weather. - Searched the fields for Indian implements first thing and found eight good sinkers, a hammerstone and several arrow heads, which was doing very well considering that the fields are pretty well grown up. -

Tried the shore next in the hope of finding some fossil leaves. - Struck a big slab of rock with numerous indications in it and I hammered at it until I gave myself a headache without obtaining a single good specimen. - It was a most exasperating failure and I left the fragments piled up in a heap until some future occasion. - One thing is pretty certain however, these slabs of rock are washed out from the bluff and now comes the question, 'are they in place there?'

We next walked along the shore to Prices Bay and looked at the splendid rock exposures made by the phenomenal high tide of 27th inst. - Burrows of 20 or 30 feet have been made in places & the sheer faces on the bluff afford splendid examples of the drift structure. -

Cut across country next to Ettingville, examining every owl tree we knew of on the way, but without result. - Price we saw cats away out in the fields - hunting mice I presume. -

Jan. 1st.

A most astonishingly warm clear day. No winter yet. Not even a particle of snow and no frost in the ground. Took 7 o'clock train down to Pleasant Plains with Jim. Raymond. Went over to the clay beds at Kreischerville and nearly got mined. - Struck a new archaeological locality near the ultramarine works and picked up a lot of flint chips and pottery. - Lay out on the sand and fairly basked in the sunshine as we ate our lunch. Walked all the way home via Valley Forge and Richmond. Saw an immense tree all by itself in a field near Marshland and made for it to investigate. Proved to be a white oak 15 ft. 2 in. circ! - There is a hedge row of *Ilex verticillata*, extending down towards the marsh from the school house, which is a magnificent sight just now, with its masses of red berries. - Persimmons and frost grapes are in good condition. - Thought we would take a short cut across the orchard where we found the chickadees nest last year and in another hollow apple tree we found a screech owl. He was quite lively. - Concluded to take a look at the deserted house which has yielded phoebe's nests, chimney swallows, honey comb etc. Pulled off a clap board or two and uncovered a nest with two flying squirrels. After a lively hunt we captured one. - Home at 6 o'clock - a great day!

Jan. 9th

A tearing snow storm began last night and has been raging all day. - In evening Willie Davis and Louis Sawyer came up and we braved the elements and went down to Nat. Sci. men meeting. - Henshaw was the only other one there, so we made ourselves cozy in Prof. Stephens's room. - Had a cake from Davis & sawards & wine & a live singing mouse. What would become of the Nat. Sci. Assn. if it were not for a few devoted ones? -

Feb. 21st

Took train to New Dorp with Willie Davis. It was a cold day but the ground was frozen hard and the walking good, so by brisk walking we got up a good glow. - Willie promised to show me a heron's nest, where night herons had bred for years past. Sure enough, in a patch of woods just back of Richmond Hill, within a few feet of which I had passed scores of times, were the old nests! I was ready to kick myself to think how I had missed them. - Next we made for Richmond Hill and in a stony gravelly field found some suspicious looking flint chips. I even heard a yell of delight from Willie as he was holding up a yellow jasper arrow head. Then I picked up a good axe and a grooved stone. - Willie left me then to go for a train and I decided to walk home. -

Succeeded in chasing some gray squirrels and flying squirrels and incidentally chased a mouse out with the latter. -

Spent our lunch in a deserted house near the Fresh Water marshes which had heretofore escaped our notice. - It contained a dismantled spinning wheel, a carved a giant buckelhorn, broken back of the Bourne place, with a trunk 22 in. circ. and a main branch 14 1/2 in. circ.!

Feb. 22nd

Had a great day's tramp with Jim. Raymond. We took the train down to Annadale and from there walked to Green Bridge. - Our first find was an owl in a hollow apple tree. - Searched a big white oak tree which had been reported to me as growing in the rear of the school house. Found it readily with a rustic hut built against it and a leaning it around with a fire place tripod & gipsy pot in front of the door. The tree was a magnificent white oak, measuring

Feb 22 (continued)

...the tree close by. The tree measures 11 ft 7 in. circumference. - While we were investigating the surroundings a man came along with another in tow. Man no. 1 was evidently showing Man no. 2 the sights & presently he pointed to a tulip tree, on which last years seed receptacles yet remained, and remarked that the tree bore those flowers every winter. - Whether he was ignorant himself or was merely stuffing his friend I do not know. - Made over towards Huguenot next and camped out by a deserted house & eat lunch. Presently we began to explore the interior of the house and found a quantity of antiques, including a finely carved old four-post bedstead and a flint lock musket. Presently a small boy came along and him bargained for the musket. The boy said it was no good, that it wouldn't shoot, and seemed to have no further idea of its value. A date 175- was on it & the boy said that it had belonged to his great grandfather Van Pelk. - Him got it for 50 cts! Washington Avenue was yet filled with snow which had drifted in solid from fence to fence while the fields were bare. - Went back towards Green Ridge, and then through Richmond Avenue. In a sandy place near Green Ridge found a broken hammer stone, some iron nails, and some chips! - an unexpected locality. Back up Richmond, where I struck the snowdrift yesterday, we walked out the grass sprang and saw flying squirrels and succeeded in catching both the flyers by hand. - Was a large day and a cloudy weather.

Mo. 7th.

Went down the railroad with Willie Davis. - The new arrangement went into effect today and we were able to start from New Brighton Point and return to there at night. Big saving in time and distance and trouble. -

Got off at Annadale and, as usual, saw our mysterious man get off the train and make for the suspicious house at the mouth of Fresh Kill. - I should like to know what he is up to there every week. -

We made over to Green Ridge and ate lunch in the little rustic hut under the big white oak back of the school house. A number of large white oaks have been felled around there recently and as they were saved instead of chopped we had a chance to count the annual ring & measure diameters of seven stumps - ranging from 86-113 rings and from 2 ft. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. - 2 ft. 9 in. diameter. - Took careful measurements & notes in each case. -

The weather was warm and W. caught several neuropterous insects. He also opened some excrescences on a cherry tree & found larvae, which W. says are Aegeria & will probably hatch out in the house. -

Walked over the Green Ridge arrowhead locality and picked up two; also a hammerstone. Walked from thence over towards Court House, through hitherto unexplored regions. Discovered a heronry in the way, from which I expect great things this season, as it was evidently occupied last year. -

Examined two deserted houses, one with flying squirrels in it, the other with the remains of four phoebe's nests!

Routed out a pair of flying squirrels from a stump and found numerous first class owl trees.

A very large day. -

Feb. 28th.

A great day! Went down to Annadale with Willie Davis and explored along the south side of the railroad. We had owls in our minds eyes, but didn't succeed in pulling one. Also took a look at arbutus, but it was only in bud.

Finally got over to the Woods of Ardor and there we struck a red shouldered hawk's nest, bird and all, but didn't disturb it, deciding to leave it for a week.

In the woods discovered a tree of *Carya tomentosa* with all the nuts peculiarly aborted. Some had three separate nuts joined together in one husk, others with two, like chestnuts and nearly all more or less flattened or partly divided.

We had quite a gorge on hickories and black walnuts.

Scared up the first kingfisher of the season at one of the arbutus cakes.

April 11th.

Went down to Eltingville with Willie Davis. Had the hawk's nest in mind that we found two weeks ago. - W. tried the tree & failed, then I tackled it and succeeded ^{after} about a twenty minutes' hard climb. Got a set of three eggs, somewhat incubated. The tree was a swamp oak.

Crows nest around that region in the most astonishing numbers, - we must have located at least ten nests within a radius of a quarter of a mile. Climbed to two of them. One had a single egg, the other a set of five. The crows have carried up an enormous number of soft clams from the shore - littering the ground in places, especially along fences and under favorite roosting trees. Most of the shells are broken on the edges. Wonder by what means?

Reveled a flying squirrel out of a tree by Huguenot

(April 11th, continued.)

Also flushed a woodcock and picked up several pseudo-arrow heads or chips. -

Heard a chewink and saw a pewee.

The arbutus is not yet in bloom and is almost exterminated, even from my private locality, where it appears to be winter killed. -

April 18th.

Went down to New Dorp with Willie Davis. - Had owls in mind, but got left. - Inspected all the hollow trees we could find and discovered three blue birds' nests - all with eggs. -

Located one flying squirrel and decided to investigate, so broke off the tree but there were no young ones. Two previous evidently.

In a swamp between Richmond and the railroad I climbed up to a suspicious looking nest and found four gray squirrels in it, just about ready to take care of themselves. - Got them all safely home. Found several crow's nests. - W. scooped in the first butterflies and we saw the first night herons. Took in Bloodroot Valley and found *Sanguinaria*, *Engelmannia*, *Hepatica*, *Saxifraga* & *Claytonia* all in bloom - a pretty sight. -

Snakes were out in considerable force. One big black fellow was well worth looking at. I should judge that he was nearly as thick as my wrist and about $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long.

Weather nice and warm.

May 9th.

Went down to Totenville with Willie Davis & Father. Some virgin ground had been recently plowed & we naturally struck more or less into the Indian implement line, besides which a small boy parted with a mixed lot for a quarter, so we

(May 9th, continued.)

came home loaded.

W. discovered a new plant for the Island in the form of a bush of *Crataegus coccinea*. He's got a very quick eye for anything out of the ordinary. He also pointed out a group of red birches, which we had often passed before but never noticed. I was particularly struck by the hazy outline which these trees present at a distance - the loose bark gives them a most delicious soft appearance. -

Found a good block of cretaceous material containing fossil leaves, on the shore at the bluff.

May 23^d.

Went down to Ellingville with Willie Davis. - Made for the heronry which we discovered on Dec. 7th. Evidently others had been there ahead of us however, as there were marks of climbing on the trees and all the nests we examined had been cleaned out. A few poor birds were yet loafing listlessly around, but practically the heronry was deserted. It was a sad disappointment to us. -

Visited a deserted home hard by and caught a young bat. Also found a phoebe's nest not yet occupied. Examined another deserted home and found a phoebe's nest with young ones. -

By this time I was pretty well disgusted with the mosquitoes, but managed to summon up sufficient energy to walk to Garrettsville and measure the big white oak in the field near the station, 17 ft. 8 in. circ.

May 31^d.

Mosquitos, Mosquitos!

Started at 5.30 A.M. for a grand Decoration Day tramp. Had Ed. Corie and old man Coker along. Our first experience was making out three flying squirrels from a sassafras tree near Bloodroot Valley and two of them were so young and unsophisticated that they came back to

(May 31st, continued.)

the nest before I descended from the tree and we caught them readily. -

Next a gray squirrel with one blind eye showed up and it evidently didn't have confidence enough to take to the trees, but kept along a rail fence & we succeeded in capturing it. -

In the same tree with the flying squirrels a mouse had made its home & came out to see what was the trouble, perching himself upon one of my feet to reconnoitre, before making off. -

Visited the ^{old} hermitage again but it was silent & deserted. -

Made for Richmond Hill next & along the old abandoned R.R. track found a Cardinal Grosbeak's nest with 1 egg. Attached to the outside of the little deserted house at the base of Richmond Hill, found a Phoebe's nest with a set of 5 fresh eggs. -

Rummaged around a big barn on Richmond Hill and gathered in a nest of 3 barn swallow's eggs. Also scared out about a dozen bats. -

We next gathered in a set of summer yellow bird's eggs and a Bobolink's. -

Explored the old grist mill incidentally. -

Gray squirrels were out in great numbers today. -

We must have seen about ten of them during the day. - Home at 6 P.M. - A great day! -

July 19th.

Experienced a most tremendous hail storm last night. Hail stones bombarded the house like rocks and lightning was incessant for an hour or more. Found quite a number of plants damaged this morning. Many are broken; pansies are beaten flat; the broad leaves of *Polygonum orientale* are pierced & frayed & the thick leaves of *Sedum* are bruised and show innumerable white spots. - Father says that he picked up a number of dead sparrows. -

July 23rd.

Noticed what is apparently a sequel to the hail storm of last week; nearly all the grapes have been so bruised that they have cracked open. -

July 29th.

We have been afflicted around our vicinity with a plague of wooly caterpillars. They have devoured all kinds of plants - even thistles, but our fuschias have suffered the most. Today may be seen hundreds of the animals, dead and desiccated, in fences and tall weeds, while others are rolling themselves up as chrysalides, made partly from their own hair - the brown ones brown, the yellow ones yellow. -

Aug. 2nd.

Started on a cruise in a sail boat with Nat. Brille & Fred. Merrill. - Took in Great Kells & Princes Bay, where we anchored for the night. - Beautiful evening, clear as crystal. Meteors, noises from birds flying along shore and overhead. Everything calm & peaceful. -

Aug. 3rd.

Pretty cold for sleeping in the open boat last night. Sailed to Cheesquakes Creek & spent an hour or so exploring the kitchen midden. Found a few net sinkers, pottery fragments & deer bones - the latter evidently part of the same skeleton which I unearthed before. -

Tried to sail to Keyport next but failed & finally got back to Staten Island & camped on the shore near New Drop for the night. -

Aug. 4th.

When I first looked out of the tent early this morning there were lots of snipe, sandpeeps and ring necked plovers flying or walking along the beach.

Sailed over to Atlantic Highlands and spent the

(Aug. 4th, continued.)

day examining the marl bluffs and shore. Studied the formation of conglomerate on the shore with considerable interest. - Turkey Buzzards are quite plentiful and it seems strange that they do not come to Staten Island occasionally. - Saw a fight between one & a fish hawk. Pitched tent at Helton Park dock for the night. -

August 5th.

Made a trip over to Sandy Hook & back & again camped at Helton Park dock for the night.

Aug. 6th.

Sailed over to Staten Island and finally anchored inside Tottenville point about dark. Just had time to run up to the shell mounds and pick up a couple of snailshells & a hammer stone. - Heard and saw quite a number of quail. Seem to be getting more plentiful. -

Mosquitos are plentiful in the grass & bushes, but we haven't had one in our tent. -

Aug. 7th.

Began to rain this morning but I took a turn along the shore at the base of the bluff and hammered out a few fossil leaves from a block of Cretaceous material. Stormed so hard that we tied up the boat securely at the Tottenville dock, made things snug and came back home by train. -

Aug. 8th.

Went down to Tottenville & sailed the boat home by way of Staten Island Sound and Kill von Kull. So ended the cruise of the Whisk! -

Aug. 22nd.

Went down to Pleasant Plains with Willie Davis and then

(Aug. 22nd, continued)

struck over to Kreischerville. - Examined the clay pit at Killmeyer's but found it abandoned & the plant stratum covered. - Walked over toward Rossville then through fields and pastures new & stumbled upon some pottery fragments, and two arrow heads. - Near the Ultramarine Works found a lot of pottery where Raymond & I found the same on New Year's day. - Came across a huge sycamore near an old tumble-down barn that measures 10 ft. 2 in. circ. - Found *Sabbatia chlorides* in bloom in the salt meadows. First time I ever saw it growing. - Succeeded in getting quite a huckleberry feast on a sandy bank side near Kreischerville. -

A charming day - regular October weather rather than August. -

Sept. 5th. -

Went up to Erastina with Willie Davis and from there tramped to Old Place. Near the old mill at Old Place we struck some fine Isabella grapes, clambering over an English hawthorn hedge - and then obtained a drink from a decangular home made bucket on the end of a well sweep. There are still some interesting old things on Staten Island which we have not seen apparently. - Crossed over the sluice gate of the mill & made across the salt meadows, to the sand dunes at Watchogues. At our lunch on the top of a high hay stack, out of reach of the mosquitoes. - Came home by way of "the long, long lane, that has no turning" and the Parapike. There are a fine lot of trees in the woodland on both sides of the Parapike, between 4 corners Willow Brook and we measured one tulip tree that came up to a circumference of 11 ft. 1 in.

Oct. 3rd.

Went down to Richmond Valley with Willie Davis and Louis Sawyer. A lovely autumn day. Tramped over

(Oct. 3^d, continued)

to the Breischerville clay pits. Walked through "Africa" and got lost for a while. - I wonder how many people outside of the actual inhabitants, are acquainted with that region, including the negro cabins hidden in the woods and the two little negro chapels. Struck quite a region north of the R.R. near Prince Bay that was entirely unknown to us.

Oct. 7th.

Joined the Torrey Club in a field day excursion to Woods of Arden. Had a crowd of 19 of which 16 were females! Rooted around in the pond holes and obtained quite a lot of aquatic plants, including two *Potamogeton* and a *Najas* that I couldn't spot. - The long continued drought has dried up the swamps so that they are dusty and we had a chance to see how aquatic or semi-aquatic plants act under such conditions. - Many of them produced freaks in the flowers, especially in the case of *Polygonum Pennsylvanicum*. -

Oct. 24th.

Made a try at the Hickories near Court House with Father and Addie, the children and Jack Remmer & Billy Beers, Billy Davis. - Visited all the trees with which we were acquainted but found them barren. The whole crop seems to be a failure. - Managed to scare up a few flying squirrel, & rabbit and got some peromyscus. -

The dried up condition of the trees and herbage is painful to see. I don't know what the consequence will be if the drought continues for much longer. We have had no rain of any account since Aug. 8th. - Even in the densest woods and the beds of swamps the ground is dry and dusty & the leaves break and crumble to the touch. -

Nov. 2^d.

Had the Annual joint field day combination of Natural Science Association & Dorsey Botanical Club. - A splendid day and 35 persons out. - Got off at Annadale and walked down to the shore. Obtained some *Hammamelis* in blossom & some *Ilex verticillata* in fruit, on the border of the smallest arbutus pond. - Cut across to woods of Arden & thence to Ellingville. - Saw quite a flock of crossbills - first I have seen for a long time. Wonder if they presage a cold winter?

Nov. 13th.

Had 6th Ann. Meeting of Nat. Sci. Assn. in evening. - A small gathering and I gave a review of our history and work for the first five years of our existence. Not very encouraging but we are at least living & if we can only struggle on there may come some better conditions in the future.

Nov. 21st.

Took compass & travelled over the trap ridge from Port Richmond to Graniteville. Found the glacial scratches to be N. 13 W., N. 20 W., N. 30 E. -

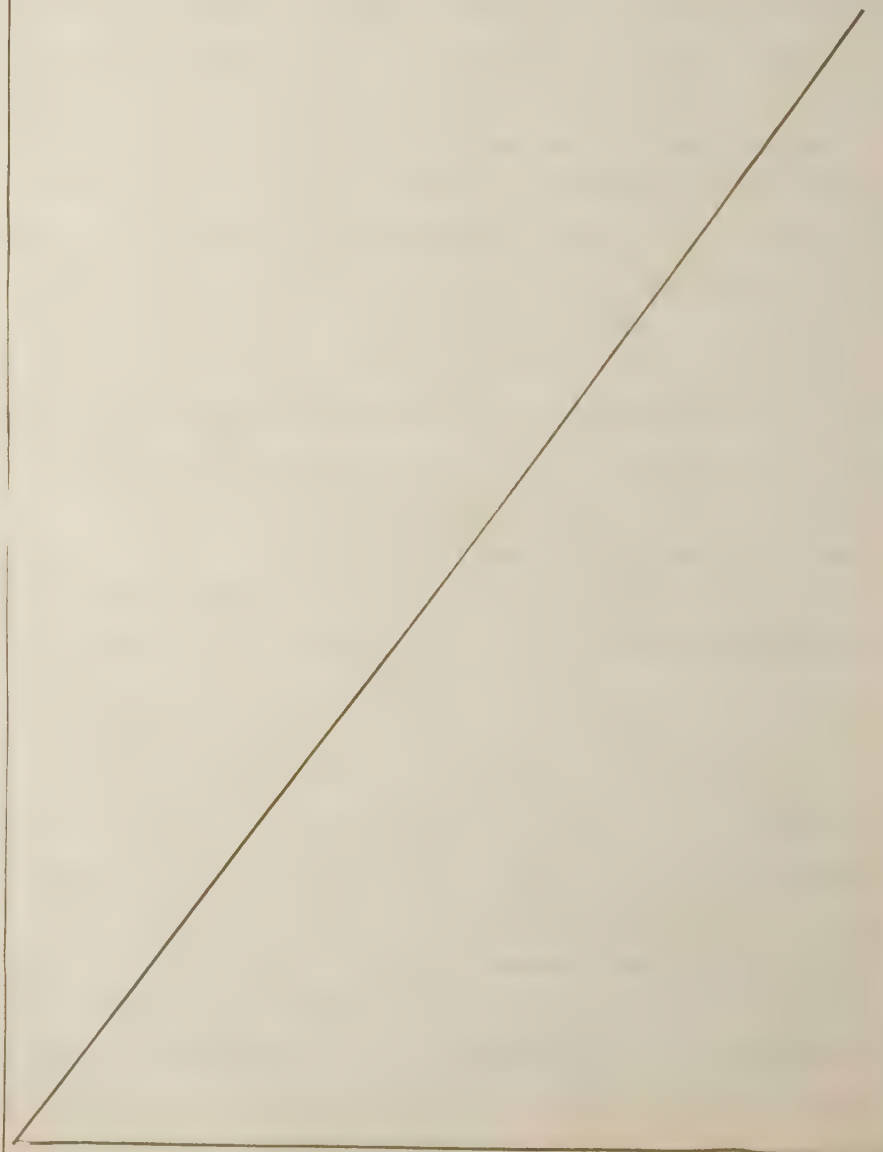
After getting these facts walked along Washington St. and hunted up E. M. Eadie. - We started out to Old Place together to hunt down some rumors in regard to recent discoveries of Indian graves. Found a Mr. Kenney, who has constructed a rambling cement house on a sand dune in the salt meadows & he put us on the track of the rumors. Made four different visits on the natives of the region and gathered in a human tooth said to have been dug up hard by, besides seeing several Indian implements.

Nov. 25th.

Started out with Willie Davis and Jim. Raymond for a tramp towards Richmond. - Began to drizzle soon after we got well under way and all fi-

(Nov. 25th, continued)

really took refuge in Latourcelle's barn on Richmond Hill.
 Rained harder than ever & Willie Davis started home via
 Court House station. - Jim. Raymond & I made a search
 for indian relics in the fields back of Richmond Hill and I
 picked up one good arrow head. - By this time it was raining
 for fair & we put up our coat collars, turned up our
 trousers, rammed our hands into our pockets and put
 for home. Oh how it did rain! Was never in quite such a
 soak before & had to go it blind from Clove Lake
 home as it was dark by the time I arrived that far.



Sunday Mch. 13th

Took Eleanor down to Britton's and went out a walk with Nat. & Lizzie. Heard rumors of a wild goose having been seen around the meadows and by and by we saw it, meandering around in the grass on the Vanderbelt farm. - Nat. sent for a gun and I tried to get a shot at the bird, but didn't succeed. I managed to get within about 100 feet of it one time but it kept flying off short distances & settling down again and we finally gave up.

Friday Ap. 8th.

Good Friday. Went on a tramp by myself. Had owl in my mind's eye. Made for Ocean Terrace and walked along to Richmond Hill. Fine weather and lots of birds here - a blue heron, oven birds, juncos, highlanders, robins, lots of chickadees, myrtle birds & golden crowned kinglets. Watched several pairs of red shouldered hawks and located one nest between Richmond & Eltingville. Ate my lunch in the old fort and then followed the abandoned railroad to its terminus in the south shore. Paid my owl tree a visit & pulled out a screech owl. Put it in my pocket while I examined the hole for eggs but found none. Replaced the bird, still in a sort of comatose condition. Wonder if it was an old bachelor. - Struck a patch of winter-green very unexpectedly, near Eltingville. Examined the arbutus but it was not yet in blossom. Even the liverwort is not yet showing. A miserable late season. - Home in 5 o'clock train.

Sunday April 10th.

Red hot day! 85° in the shade. - Took train to Richmond Valley with Willie Davis & Chas. Leung. - Soon left them and made for Totterville. Picked up a few poor specimens of indian implements and concluded that it didn't pay to waste any more time in that direction. - *Draba verna* in great shape - the earliest flower this year except skunk cabbage. Walked along shore to Prince's Bay bluff where I ate lunch.

(over)

Apr. 10" (Continued)

Walked from there to the terminus of the old railroad near Eltingville, by which time I had developed a jumping, racking headache which demanded attention, so I settled myself on a brush heap in the shade & slept for about two hours. It seems very queer for me to be able to go to sleep in the day time. - Felt better after it but my day was spent & I came right home. -

Thursday April 14th.

Heard incidentally from Willie Davis that he had pulled an owl out of Jim. Raymond's owl tree at Huguenot some days ago and that there would probably be eggs there by this time. - Went up to the City - attended to business, and managed to catch the 11.35 train for Huguenot. Sure enough, found a screech owl in the tree and two eggs, which I secured and then came home. -

Sunday April 17th

Went down to Tottenville with Father & Eleanor. - Roamed along the beach and searched for fossils but with poor success. - Ran across a small boy from whom we purchased some arrow heads & old coins and then succeeded in picking up a couple of net suiters. Found a few *Erythroniums* in bloom.

Monday April 18th

A howling N.E. storm of snow, sleet & rain. - Everything looks like Winter again!

Saturday April 20th.

Had Torrey Club excursion to Prince's Bay and a regular surfest of *Erythroniums*. - This will always be especially remembered however as the Eddie Schultze champagne orgie. He filled the crowd up with champagne to such an extent that nearly everything else was lost sight of. -

May 1st (Sunday)

Something wrong with me lately! I am altogether too prone to go to sleep in the daytime and today I had copious nose bleeding both in the morning and evening. I am not as spry as I used to be - my back gives out & my head gets dizzy without reason. I am not as young as I used to be!

Sunday May 15th.

Went down to Eltingville with Willie Davis. Tramped through quite a stretch of new country between Eltingville and Giffords, north of the railroad. - Took a look at the heronry, but not a single bird was to be seen. - Visited two deserted houses & found a phoebe's nest in each. Took one set of five, quite well incubated. - Found a field sparrow's nest with a cowbird's egg in it. - Visited the patch of *Pogonia verticillata* that Nat. Britton & I discovered in '76. - Came across a monster old pear tree in an abandoned garden near the ruins of house. The tree measured 7 ft. 8 in. circ. all around were matrimony vines, motherwort and daffodils. - The mortar in the walls was made of mud and oyster lime. A characteristic of Staten Island ruined home. - *Cypripedium* is just beginning to show in bloom. - A beautiful day, but the mosquitoes were rather troublesome.

Saturday May 21st.

Took in a Torrey Club excursion from West New Brighton up the Cove Valley. - Explored the Cove Lake Swamp and succeeded in getting a few specimens of *Castilleja*. - A nice day and quite a big crowd out. -

Monday May 30th.

Took my customary Decoration Day tramp with Jim. Raymond & Geo. Hicks for my companions. - We met
(over)

May 30 (continued)

at corner of Clove Rd. & Turnpike about 5 o'clock A.M. and walked along Ocean Terrace to Richmond. - Found the buildings where the red sandstone mortar is deserted and we explored them, but without any great result. A good chance now to gather in the mortar. - In the big barn on Richmond Hill found the usual number of bats & we knocked down one for a specimen. It proves to be the little brown bat. - Got sets of barn swallows, great crested flycatchers, highholders & English sparrows, robins & wood thrush, but nothing rare. - About 2 o'clock all hands climbed up into a haystack and went to sleep for an hour or so. - If a chilly wind had not come up I think we would have slept longer. - Killed the biggest black snake I ever saw on the island - 5 ft. 4 in. long & with a maximum girth of 5 in.

Sunday, June 5th.

Went to Erastus with Willie Davis. Explored the hummocks in the salt meadows between Red Pass & Watchogue. - Davis showed me a patch of *Clematis ochroleuca* which he had discovered in a sand dune there, surrounded by salt marsh!! It was accompanied by the usual sand dune flora - *Hudsonia* etc. - and looked like a curious interloper. - Found *Euonymus alifolia* hard by - a tree new to our flora. - Saw a number of doves, which I imagine must be breeding there. There are probably the so-called "wild pigeons" of the locality. - Visited the magnolia swamps and found it badly devastated by fire & the trees broken down by vandals after flowers. - Climbed on a hay stack to get away from the mosquitoes, which were more or less in evidence, and a big black snake gave me a scare by sliding out from under me just as I sat down.

The day was a huge success.

Sunday, June 12th.

Went a walk through the Cove Valley, and over Ocean Terrace to Carletons. -- Made a special pilgrimage to the big chestnut tree. Visited Reed's willow swamp and the ruins of his house. The place is not as secluded as it used to be, but the brook is full of forget-me-nots as ever. -- Many trees have been cleared away lately in the vicinity and the former charm of the old place has gone. -- Found a number of nests with young in, -- cat birds, cardinal grosbeak & brown thrush. Took two of the latter as an experiment. -- Found a specimen of *Apidium Newboracensis* with a bifurcated frond. Killed a red bat out of a copse and it seemed to fly away in the bright daylight just as readily as by night. Felt very lazy and went to sleep on a brush pile for a time. --

[Typhoid fever - June 16 - Aug. 5]

Sunday Sept. 18th.

Out for a tramp for the first time since I was laid up with typhoid fever on June 16th, and I stood it well, but my heart action is not good and my head bothered me as of old. I do not suppose I shall ever feel in perfect health again and it makes me blue. -- We went to Tottenville and struck along the shore and then crossed to Richmond Valley. -- Willie Davis was my companion & he lit in a patch of *Rubus cuneifolius* which I had never found on the Island before. -- Just in passing I picked up an arrow head and net sinker. Found a hog noed snake which seemed to be very sluggish and as we teased it it finally opened its mouth and opened forth a big toad! The toad was almost defunct, but gradually began to revive and finally hopped away. A close call for the toad. I don't feel any effects from the walk, so far as fatigue was concerned. --

Sept. 24th. (Saturday)

Took a short tramp in afternoon with Addie & Willie Davis. Got off the train at Erastua and walked to the jumping off place at Old Place. - Called in on L. W. Freeman and obtained some arrow heads and a skin scraper from him. A great show of *Helianthus* in that region - *annuus*, *tuberosus* & *giganteus*. -

Saturday Oct. 8th.

Took a little afternoon's trip with Addie to the Princes Bay bluff. - The railroad company are trying to change this name to Princess Bay, probably because it savors more of royalty, whereas the old name might & probably was derived from a commoner by the name of Prince. - It's as far with St. George and as absurd as Erastua. -

In evening went to Nat. Sci. Assn. meeting. Only six of us in hand. It seems hard work to gather the faithful remnants together, but the Association must be kept up, even if it dwindles down to Willie Davis and I. - We are of too much value to Staten Island ever to think of abandoning our records and specimens; for future generation may appreciate our work and call us blessed, even if the present one neglects us. -

Sunday Oct. 9th.

Went to Erastua with Willie Davis. A fine warm day - so warm in fact that it waked up the mosquitoes a little. Explored a large tract of *terra incognita* between Erastua & Old Place. - Struck quite a good indian implement locality at Mariners' Harbor and gathered in several arrow heads & some pottery fragments.

We struck in through salt meadow and woodland & found a solitary but good sized tree of *Kaulok* in a *Coccoloba* which precludes the possibility of (over)

Oct. 9" (Continued)

it having been planted there by human agency. This adds another important tree to our native flora.

Went out on the sand hummocks and paid a visit to Mr. Kinney, at his cement house. He was quite communicative and presented us with a gopher which he had picked up in his place.

Collected some fine and somewhat puzzling specimens of *Centropogon* & other Compositae, also specimens of a peculiar form of *Smilax glauca* which has interested me a good deal, with very pithy stems & long narrow or panduriform leaves. It is either a new species or a good variety. It affects sandy soil exclusively.

& great days' tramps!

Saturday Oct. 15th.

Came down in P.M. boat and went up to Erasmus with John Northrop. Searched around in the fields and picked up an arrow head first thing. While looking over the same fields that we found so rich last week we attracted the attention of one of the natives and he finally took us to his barn and presented me with a large broken stone pestle. Spent in a good word for the Nat. Sci. Soc. and he seemed to know all about us. He is one of the De Harts and may be of use to us.

Saturday Oct. 22nd.

Came down in the middle of the day and went along the new extension of the railroad toward Clifton. Addie and Willie Davis with me. It has opened up a highway through some of the big estates in that region and will soon complete the wreck and destruction of that once beautiful ^{locality} region. The rise and decay of these once splendid estates is a sad, interesting & unwritten page in Staten Island's history.

Sunday Oct. 23rd

Went down to Annabale with Willie Davis and tramped cross country with the intention of repeating our trip of Oct. 5/84. Made for Benedict's orchard, ate all the apples we could and laid in a supply for future use. - Struck across some new fields and woodlands and encountered two big trees worthy of record: a sycamore 14 ft. 4 in. and a white oak 11 ft. 6 in. in circumference. Got out on the point at the mouth of Fresh Kill and picked up a couple of hammerstones, some pottery fragments and a chipped piece of quartz. - Back to Eltingville in time for the 4.30 train. - A fine tramping day and I was delighted to find that I could apparently walk as well as ever & that my muscles were limbered up to their old time pitch. -

There is an interesting problem in economics in the study of Staten Island's neglected and deserted farms. - Why does not farming pay any more here? Why are good orchards allowed to run to waste and the apples to lie rotting on the ground by hundreds and thousands? Is it the people or the conditions which have changed? This is another of Staten Island's unwritten chapters of history. -

Tuesday Nov. 8th

Had the usual combination field day of the Nat. Sci. Assn. and Torrey Club. - Got off at Court House with a party 33 strong and walked through Richmond into Meisner's Hill. - Kept to the hills and finally emerged at Moravian Cemetery. - A great day, with warm and calm weather and a hazy, smoky atmosphere.

Saturday Nov. 12th

Held the 7th Annual Meeting of the Nat. Sci. Assn. This

Nov. 12" (Continued.)

evening, but in spite of the importance of having a good attendance we only just scraped up a quorum of six.

How to raise more enthusiasm is a hopeless problem to me. -

Nov. 28".

Was awakened about 3 o'clock this morning by the the brown thrush uttering his alarm notes, so I went down stairs to investigate and found a big cat sitting on the window ledge outside, looking in at the bird. -

Dec. 15".

This morning, as I left the house I raised my umbrella by the window where the brown thrush is located and it had a most terrifying effect on the bird, causing it to utter its alarm notes and to rush from end to end of its cage. - When the umbrella was lowered it ceased but began again as soon as I raised it. - What is there about an umbrella that should cause such alarm?

Dec. 24".

Tramped out to Meiners's Hill and secured a load of holly for Xmas. - As I was unencumbered on my way out I tried a run and found myself as limber and sound of wind as ever. - My typhoid fever attack will soon be nothing more than a disagreeable memory I have every reason to hope. -

